



DATE(S)

June 4-5, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

All In – Week 1

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

**We need to follow Jesus
boldly!**

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Acts 5:29-32, 38-42

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Weird Laws

Are you serious? That can't be real! You'll be saying that a lot in this game called "Weird Laws." Yes, they're all real...and you need to correctly answer each question listed on the screen to earn points. You can play individually and pick a part of the room for each of the multiple-choice answers (to get them moving!) or you can play group vs. group. Have fun!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

What is one thing you will miss about school being out for the summer and what is one thing you will NOT miss?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship/singing.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

"All In" – Week 1 (Acts 5 & Gamaliel)
June 4-5, 2022

Welcome to summer vacation!! Woo hoo!! Since it's summertime, we are going to do one series that will happen over the next eight weeks. The theme of this series is called "All In." We are going to be focusing on stories from the New Testament, which is the second part of the Bible. There are 66 books in the Bible and the final 27 make up the New Testament. That's where we're going! So, here we go...let's jump into our first story.

Our first story begins with this (**Teacher's Note: Show picture of caterpillar**): a little, fat caterpillar. There you go, that's all I have. Just kidding! A caterpillar goes through one of the craziest changes any animal or human could ever go through. Check this out!

(**Teacher's Note: Show "Butterfly Metamorphosis" video**)

Pastor and author, Francis Chan, has a funny way of explaining what we just watched. Listen to this: (**Teacher's Note: Re-tell this quote or story in your own words, but I will include the actual quote from his sermon**).

"Imagine...ok? We're all there? You're a caterpillar. All day. You're crawling up a plant, tree, whatever. You're just walking around the same plod of dirt all your life. Ok? Then...one day...you take a nap. Just think about this! You take a nap, you fall asleep, and it's a LONG nap! What goes through your head when you wake up out of that nap? You're like...SHUT. UP. I mean, what goes through your head? You're looking at yourself and going, "What just happened?" and you're flying! Remember you were a fat worm...you just rolled around all day and now you're FLYING?! What goes through your head?"

One event has changed the course of this animal's life. It can no longer go back to being a caterpillar. Its future is now completely different just because of one event. Did you know there are two events that changed the present and the future of Christianity? The first was the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the greatest miracle in history. The second is an event in the book of Acts. It changed the lives of two men, their entire group, and as a result...your life and my life 2000 years later. Do you want to hear about it? I thought you might! First, let's look at our **THP (Take Home Point)** for this message!

We need to follow Jesus boldly!

THE MESSAGE

God created all of us and He has given all of us a purpose and plan for our life. It is simply this: to love God with all our heart, to love others, and share the Gospel message (or “good news” as the Bible calls it) of Jesus’ death on the cross for our sins and His resurrection from the dead with the world. We need to live that boldly! That’s our purpose. However, something happened in the book of Acts that allowed you and me to even have the opportunity to do that. Here’s what happened!

Peter and some of the other disciples are arrested for continuing to talk and preach about Jesus being resurrected. The authorities threw the disciples in jail, but during the night, an angel of the Lord came and unlocked their jail cell and told them to go back to the temple and keep telling others about Jesus! Crazy! As you can imagine, the prison guards were shocked when their prisoners were gone. They ended up finding the disciples in the temple courts telling people about Jesus. Well, the religious leaders didn’t like that all! They brought the disciples before the courts to decide what their punishment should be, which would be much more severe the second time around. The high priest, the main guy in charge, starts getting angry, questioning them, and basically tells them to stop talking about Jesus. Check out what Peter and the other disciples tell the high priest in Acts 5:29-32 in the New Testament:

“Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

The disciples refused to stop. They chose to obey God rather than man. That is REALLY bold!

Well, this ticked the high priest and the court off and they wanted to kill all of the disciples, until an older man named Gamaliel, who was a very respected teacher, told the courts to send the disciples outside so he could talk with the religious leaders privately. This sounds like a crazy movie, doesn’t it?! What’s going to happen to the disciples?!

THE MESSAGE

Gamaliel tells the courts, "Look...there have been a bunch of guys in the past who tried to stir up trouble. Eventually, they all just fizzled out or died. We really need to be smart in how we handle these disciples." Then, check out what he says next in verses 38-39: *"Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."*

Wow! Gamaliel says if God really told these guys to tell others about Jesus, then NOTHING can stop them. Let's read verses 40-42: *"His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah."*

Can you believe that?! They let them go, but not before flogging them, which was hitting them with a whip with chunks of metal on the end of it. However, their lives were spared! These disciples were BOLD with their faith! Even if they died, they were ALL IN!!

This all happened 2000 years ago, and yet, here we are in still talking about Jesus and his followers. Gamaliel was right! This was God's movement, and nothing has ever stopped it. Do you have boldness as a Christian? Do you think you need more of it? As our THP (Take Home Point) says – **We need to follow Jesus boldly?** What action step do you need to take to follow Jesus more boldly and live your life for Him? Are you ALL IN with your faith? These are questions I want you to consider as we go to our group discussions today. This event from when Christianity first started shows us that while being bold is hard, it's worth it! Let's pray!



CLOSING GROUP TIME

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

***Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.

What was the THP (Take Home Point) today and why was that important during the message?

Today, we learned about a man named Gamaliel who was a religious leader called a Pharisee. Why was his life so significant and why is he mentioned by Luke in the book of Acts?

Who is someone you personally know who lives their life for Jesus boldly? How does he/she inspire you?

Let's look at this verse from Paul in the New Testament: Philippians 1:20 (Leaders Note: Mention that Paul wrote these words in prison!)

"For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die."

How does this verse challenge you personally?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

ACTIVITIES

After your group is finished with your discussion, close in prayer together!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

Stupid Video of the Week
Message script
Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

Pro Presenter or Playlister

