Scripture_background

Background Notes for Acts 5:12-42

Historical Context:
- The Book of Acts is in the New Testament and tells the story of the early church after Jesus returned to heaven.
- This passage is set in Jerusalem, where the first followers of Jesus began sharing His teachings.
- At the time, there were religious leaders called the Sanhedrin who were concerned about anyone teaching things that opposed their authority.

Cultural Context:
- Miracles were seen as a sign of God’s power and presence. The early believers performed many miraculous signs, which drew people to them.
- The temple in Jerusalem was the center of religious life, where people gathered to worship and pray.
- Peter and the other apostles are central figures in this passage, showing leadership among the followers of Jesus.

Theological Insights:
- God’s Power: The apostles performed miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit, showing that God was with them.
- Obedience to God: The apostles continued to teach about Jesus, even when the authorities told them not to. They were focused on obeying God above everything else.
- Joy in Suffering: The apostles showed joy even when punished, because they believed they were blessed to suffer for Jesus’ sake. This shows their deep faith and trust in God.

Application for Preschool:
- Emphasize that God is powerful and helps us to do good things.
- Share that it’s important to tell others about Jesus, just like the apostles did.
- Help the children understand that even when things are hard, trusting in God can give us joy.

Teaching Points:
- Explore the idea of miracles and how they show God’s love and power.
- Discuss the importance of listening to God and doing what is right.
- Encourage perseverance like the apostles, showing bravery in sharing God's love.