

Spirit Filled Mission: The Book of Acts

Session 2: Boldness under pressure

Acts 4:1-31

Opening Question:

Share about a time when you had to stand up for something you believed in. What made it difficult?

Background

Acts 4 follows the healing of a lame man at the temple by Peter and John. As crowds gather and Peter preaches about Jesus, the religious leaders become concerned about the growing influence of the gospel. Peter and John are arrested, questioned, threatened, and commanded to stop speaking about Jesus. Instead of responding with fear, they remain faithful and return to the believers, who pray for greater boldness.

Read the Passage

Acts 4:1–31

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Peter's message in chapter 3 provoked such a strong reaction?
2. What forms of opposition might Christians face today?
3. How does Peter's defence before the religious leaders model the kind of faith and courage we need in the face of opposition?
4. In what ways do you/have you felt pressure to keep silent about the gospel?
5. Spend some time reflecting on what Peter's saying in verse 12. What are the implications of what he's saying?
6. Help one another think through ways that you might share the gospel in a pluralistic society.
7. Carefully examine what the church does and does not pray for in verses 24-30. Does anything surprise you? Does anything encourage you?

Application:

8. How does this chapter challenge you to be bold in your faith?
9. How does this chapter inspire you to respond when faced with opposition or persecution?
10. What lessons can you draw from Peter and John's fearless response to the Sanhedrin's commands?

Pray together for:

- Spend some time together praying for the Persecuted church and the work of Open Doors, one of our mission partners
- Greater boldness to share your faith in the midst of opposition
- Opportunities to share the gospel with people around you, in your workplace, families, communities...