

Discussion Guide

Empowered by His Name - Equipped by the Spirit

ACTS: The Church in Motion | Week 10 | Acts 4:1-13 | Small Group / Family Discussion Guide

Big Idea

True boldness and effectiveness in our calling come through reliance on the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, empowering us to overcome opposition and fulfill our God-given purpose.

Memory Verse

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

Observation

Read the passage together, then talk through what actually happened.

- Who confronted Peter and John, and what specifically provoked the confrontation (v. 1-2)?
- What happened to the message even while the apostles sat in custody overnight (v. 4)?
- Who made up the council that questioned Peter and John, and what question did they ask (v. 5-7)?
- What two things does Luke tell us about Peter right before he answers the council (v. 8)?
- What did the council conclude about Peter and John, and why (v. 13)?

Understanding

Dig into what this passage means and why it matters.

- Why do you think the resurrection message, specifically, was what provoked the Sadducees to act?
- Peter and John are standing before the same council that condemned Jesus, just weeks after Peter denied knowing him. Why does that detail matter?
- What does it mean that Peter was “filled with the Holy Spirit” in verse 8, and how does that shape how we understand his boldness?
- Why does Peter's declaration in verse 12, that there is salvation in no one else, matter so much for how we understand the uniqueness of the gospel?

- The council was amazed because Peter and John were “uneducated and untrained,” yet recognized they had been with Jesus. What does that tell us about where real spiritual authority comes from?

Personal Reflection

Take time individually, then share as you're comfortable.

- Where in your life right now do you feel pressure to soften or hide your faith to avoid opposition?
- Is your current boldness (or lack of it) something you have manufactured on your own, or something that flows from genuine reliance on the Holy Spirit? Be honest with yourself here.
- If someone who knows you well were asked to explain your life apart from Jesus, could they? What would they say?

Application

Talk through what it looks like to live this out this week.

- Name one specific room, conversation, or relationship this week where you sense God calling you to speak or act with boldness rooted in Jesus' name.
- What is one practical way you can position yourself to be filled with the Spirit before you walk into that moment, rather than trying to work up courage on your own?
- As a group, pray for each other by name over the specific situations you just identified.

Family Application

For households with kids, use this to bring the passage home around the dinner table.

- Ask your kids: has anyone ever made fun of you or given you a hard time for believing in Jesus? What happened?
- Explain that Peter and John were not afraid to talk about Jesus even when powerful, important leaders tried to scare them. Ask: where do you think their courage came from?
- As a family, pick one person you can be bold about sharing Jesus with this week, and pray for that person together.