

Unleashed: Boldly Speaking God's Word

ACTS: The Church in Motion

Week 12 | Acts 4:23-31 | Discussion Guide

Big Idea

Believers are called to seek boldness not from their own strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, so they can faithfully share the Gospel and point others to Jesus.

Observation

1. Read Acts 4:23-31 together. When Peter and John returned to their friends, what was the first thing the church did in response to the threat they reported?
2. What specific request does the church make in their prayer in verse 29? What do they not ask for?
3. What three things happen in verse 31 after the church prays?

Understanding

1. The believers' prayer begins by describing who God is before it asks God for anything. Why might that order matter for how we pray under pressure?
2. Peter was already filled with the Spirit in Acts 4:8. Why do you think the believers needed to be filled again in verse 31?
3. In Ephesians 6:19-20, Paul asks the church to pray for his boldness even though he is already an experienced apostle. What does this tell us about where boldness comes from?

"and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak." (Ephesians 6:19-20, ESV)

4. In 2 Timothy 1:7-8, what does Paul say the Spirit gives believers instead of fear? Why do you think Paul needed to remind Timothy of this?

Personal Reflection

1. Where in your life right now are you most tempted to stay quiet about Jesus instead of speaking up?
2. Think of a moment when you sensed God giving you courage you did not have on your own. What happened?
3. Do you tend to seek boldness on your own, or do you invite others to pray for you the way Paul did? What would it look like to ask someone this week?

Application

1. Identify one specific person or situation this week where God may be opening a door for you to speak about Jesus. What is holding you back?
2. Before that conversation happens, spend time in prayer asking God for boldness, the way the church did in Acts 4.
3. Ask one other person in your group or family to pray specifically for your boldness this week, and offer to do the same for them.

Family Application

For families with children, talk together about a time someone in your family felt scared to tell a friend about Jesus. Read 2 Timothy 1:7-8 together and remind each other that God gives us a spirit of power, love, and self-control, not fear. Pray as a family for one friend or neighbor each person could talk to about Jesus this week.

Memory Verse

"And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31, ESV)