

empowered

----- ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD. -----

Small Group Study #3

Bold Witness

Pray and ask God to speak to your group during today's study. Open up your Bibles and read Acts 4:1-21

1. In chapter 3 of Acts, John and Peter heal a man who had been lame since birth. This creates a commotion and soon they are preaching the Good News about Jesus to a large crowd. Rather than rejoicing over a healed man, the religious leaders are feeling threatened. Putting them in custody for a night and then interrogating them, they ask Peter and John "by what power or by what name did you do this?" Their answer is Jesus name. What does it mean to live your life "in Jesus name" today? What are the "names" the world lives in?
2. After giving such a bold answer to their question, the religious leaders were astonished. They recognized that while "uneducated and common" Peter and John had "been with Jesus." What are the qualities you recognize of someone you know has "been with Jesus"? What is the difference you notice in yourself after you have spent time in God's presence?
3. After being warned not to speak about their Saviour any longer, John and Peter respond: "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." They have determined in their hearts that they would rather please God than human beings. How can the fear of humankind hinder our witness? How do we break out of that fear and share the hope "burning in our hearts" (Jer. 20:9) ?

Read Acts 4:22-31

1. After their incident with the religious leaders, Peter and John go back to their friends and tell them what happened. Their immediate response is to pray about it. In a world of strategic planning and conflict resolution training, why is it critical to never neglect prayer as our first response?
2. These early believers knew that this would not be their last opposition they would face for sharing their faith. When they prayed, verse 29 tells us they asked for boldness in their continued witness. God responded by filling them with the Holy Spirit. Have you ever prayed for courage to share your faith? If so, what happened? How have you seen the Spirit fill you for witness?

Ask God to provide each and every person in your group with opportunities to share faith. Pray for the Spirit to fill you with boldness to step out in faith, even in the midst of potential opposition.

Empowered 5 — Courageous Conviction — Acts 4:1-21

Song Ideas

- For The Cause — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHuLOdZdqs8>
- Spirit Of The Living God — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYcUL1fi0yk>

Additional Scripture Reading

- Matthew 5:14-16
- Jeremiah 20:9
- Romans 1:16
- Philippians 2:12-13

Reading / Prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, the privilege is ours to be called to share in the loving, healing, and reconciling mission of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in this age and wherever we are.

Since without you we can do no good thing,

may your Spirit make us wise;

may your Spirit guide us;

may your Spirit renew us;

may your Spirit strengthen us

so that we will be strong in faith;

discerning in proclamation;

courageous in witness;

persistent in good deeds.

This we ask through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Empowered 6 — Power For Witness — Acts 4:22-31

Song Ideas

- May The Peoples Praise You — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BrfkjHdKVI>
- Build Your Kingdom Here — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcSWpVKKMcs>

Additional Scripture Reading

- Acts 1:8
- Matthew 28:18-20

Reading / Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, the vision of your kingdom, forgiveness and new life, and the stirring of your Spirit, so that we may share your vision, proclaim your love, and change this world in the name of Christ. Amen.