

# 5

## Leader Guide

# Boldness

*March 5, 2023*

**Main Passage: Acts 4:23-31**

**Leaders:** Have your group missions representative share about upcoming missions projects - consider hosting an Easter egg hunt in a neighborhood

## Theological Theme

As Christ continued to work through His disciples, opposition and persecution arose. The early believers demonstrated their faith by praising the Lord, praying His will, and asking for boldness to carry out the mission they had received.

## Introduction

- ? What comes to mind when you hear "bold"?
- ? What is something that you prefer to have in "bold"?
- ? What are some situations in your life that require boldness?

## 1. Acknowledge the Lord (Acts 4:23-24)

As always happens when God is at work, the enemy stirred up opposition. After being detained and questioned, Peter and John were released and went immediately back to their fellow believers. They reported all that had happened and the way they were able to share about Jesus during their questioning. The entire group praised God and rejoiced when they heard this report.

- ? When was a time you experienced the power in praying together with other believers?
- ? Application: How are you prompted to change the way you pray after seeing the example of the early church?

## 2. Powerful Prayer (Acts 4:25-28)

Our prayers are powerful not because of the way we pray but because of the One to whom we pray. One practice for praying in power is praying Scripture back to God. Because all Scripture is God breathed and given by the Lord (see 2 Timothy 3:16), when we quote what God has already spoken, we can be sure we are praying according to His will and power. The early church was a shining example of this. They not only prayed in unity, but they also regularly referenced Old Testament Scriptures in their prayers.

- ? How does praying Scripture back to God give us confidence in the things we pray?
- ? How can Scripture help you see a current situation in your life more clearly?
- ? Application: What do you need to change about the way you have been praying lately? Have your prayers been more self-focused or God-focused?

### 3. Request and Results (Acts 4:29-31)

Acknowledging the Lord and His power in line with the Scriptures leads to bolder requests, not more limited ones. The disciples' requests were all about God and His glory. They didn't pray for less persecution or easier days. They asked for boldness that would likely lead to more contention from their opposition. We tend to ask for things to be easier and simpler. What if we prayed more like the disciples and asked for the boldness to live our faith and push the gospel forward with more confidence and strength?

- ❓ How might our faith be strengthened and/or our lives be more difficult if we prayed like the disciples did?
- ❓ Why is it so important to acknowledge that only God has the power to do the miraculous?
- ❓ Application: Have you been on a mission trip? What mission trip/location are you considering?

### Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

\*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

### Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

*Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"*

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

### Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).