

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 04.07.2024

PETER'S BOLDNESS - ACTS 4:1-31

PART 1: Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

The Sadducees and other religious leaders did not like what Peter was telling the people. The Sadducees were a group of religious leaders who did not believe in miracles or that people could be raised from the dead. As Peter spoke of the fact that Christ had been raised from the dead, the Sadducees were filled with anger and hate. They were grieved both that Peter was teaching the people and also that he was preaching that Christ is the One who rose from the dead and will raise those who believe in Him from the dead. While Peter was speaking, these men stopped him, took Peter and John, and put them in jail. However, many of those who heard the Word of God believed in Christ as a result of Peter's boldness in the risen Christ. Let's get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Pastor James Class sermon?
2. Do you ever feel like you don't have anything special to offer to God? Why is it so easy for us to feel this way?

PART 2: Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 4:1-7.

1. What were the reasons for the opposition of the Sadducees to Peter's healing and sermon from Acts 3?
2. Take a look back at Acts 3:1-10. When was the last time you were approached by someone soliciting money? How did you respond to the person?
3. What does Peter's response to the beggar reveal about his belief in God? About God's ability to work through us?

Peter understood that God wants to use us to bless others. He calls us to trust Him to work through our efforts to minister to others in the name of Jesus.

1. Peter and John landed in jail because of their testimony about Jesus following that healing. Why does sharing the gospel of Jesus provoke people to oppose the message and the messengers?
2. How did those in the temple listening to Peter and John react to their message? What various responses have you received from people when you've shared about your relationship with Jesus?
3. What was the significance of the question the council asked Peter and John in verse 7? Have you ever felt like you didn't have the authority to share the gospel because of a lack of education or position?

The Sadducees judged the apostles and treated them with scorn because they were not well educated (4:13). They had not received training at the feet of the rabbis and had no official standing in Judaism.

To the Sanhedrin these disciples were nobodies, ordinary men who had assumed religious authority to which they were not entitled. So, they locked Peter and John in prison.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 4:8-12.

1. What motivated Peter to again share the gospel of Jesus with the religious leaders? What is the main point of his testimony in these verses?
2. If you were arrested, brought before a judge, and accused of testifying and witnessing about Jesus Christ, how do you think you would respond?

Verse 8 notes that Peter was “filled with the Holy Spirit,” which gave him the courage to speak honestly before his interrogators. To be filled with the Spirit means to submit to His control and power. No matter how “ordinary” we feel, the Holy Spirit works through us in extraordinary ways.

3. What is the meaning of verse 12? Why would this be considered a bold statement today? When have you experienced or witnessed push back to this truth?

HAVE ANOTHER VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 4:13-20.

1. What do you think was the source of Peter and John’s courage? What did the crowd notice about Peter and John?
2. Do you notice a difference in your courage and enthusiasm for the gospel when you spend quality time with God? Explain some specific ways it might be evident to others that you have been with Jesus.
3. What does the fact that the men seemed so “ordinary” communicate about the work of God? In what ways can this encourage us in our relationship with God?
4. Read verses 18-20 again. How did the religious leaders’ response affect Peter and John? What implication does their example have on our witness?

PART 3: Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

1. How would you spend your time differently if you truly believed God wants to work through you in extraordinary ways? What would you change about your priorities?
2. Read Matthew 10:32-33. Why is it important that we live out the gospel through what we do and what we say? How might our community be different if everyone in our church committed wholeheartedly to this calling?

PRAYER: Set aside time at the end of your group meeting for people to voice prayer concerns and needs. Pray for the concerns mentioned, for opportunities to show kindness to the people we meet each day, and for confidence to speak the gospel and point people to Jesus every chance we get.

“19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” (ACTS 4:19-20)