

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday May 10, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 4:1–37**, the early church is not trying to protect comfort, preserve reputation, or avoid pressure. Instead, Jesus is inviting His people to depend on Him boldly, pray together faithfully, and live on mission together. Many of us know what it feels like to face fear, uncertainty, or pressure to stay quiet about our faith. We often want God to remove difficulty, while He may be inviting us to trust Him more deeply in the middle of it. As we discuss this passage together, consider how God may be calling you toward greater boldness, deeper dependence, and more intentional discipleship.

Main Passage:

Acts 4:1–37

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Shake This Place

READ ALOUD

Acts 4:1–37

Opening Question: What is something you were nervous or hesitant to do at first, but became much easier once someone encouraged or supported you?

- What do you notice about how the believers responded after Peter and John were threatened?
- What details in this passage show the unity and priorities of the early church?
- Why do you think the believers prayed for boldness instead of safety or comfort?
- Where might God be inviting you to live or speak more boldly for Jesus right now?

APPLY

- What is one situation in your life where fear or pressure makes following Jesus difficult?
- What would it look like for you to help someone take a next step toward Jesus?

RESPOND

- What is one practical step of bold obedience you can take this week?
- Who is one person you can intentionally pray for, encourage, or disciple this week?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Read Acts 4:32–37

- What stands out to you about the unity and generosity of the early church?
- How does this section connect to the believers' prayer for boldness earlier in the chapter?
- What do we learn about the kind of community the Holy Spirit was forming among the believers?

PRAY

Spend time thanking God for His grace, presence, and faithfulness. Ask Him to fill your group with courage, wisdom, and dependence on the Holy Spirit. Pray for boldness to follow Jesus publicly and faithfully in everyday life. Ask God to help you trust Him in areas where fear, pressure, or uncertainty are present. Pray for opportunities to encourage, disciple, and point others toward Jesus this week.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Acts 4:1–37

- Why were Peter and John not afraid to talk about Jesus?
- What did the believers pray for when life became difficult?
- How did the early church care for one another?
- What does it mean to be bold for Jesus today?

For younger children: Help your child understand that Jesus is always with them and can help them obey Him even when they feel nervous or afraid.

For older kids or students: Where do you feel pressure to stay quiet about your faith, and what would boldness look like there?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Acts 5:1–11
- **Day 2:** Acts 5:12–16
- **Day 3:** Acts 5:17–26
- **Day 4:** Acts 5:27–32
- **Day 5:** Acts 5:33–42

What's Going On?

Acts 4 takes place shortly after the resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. After Peter and John heal a man who had been unable to walk for more than forty years, crowds gather as they publicly proclaim that Jesus is alive and that salvation is found in Him alone. This creates tension with the religious leaders, who arrest and question them because they do not want the message of Jesus spreading throughout Jerusalem.

Instead of responding with fear, the believers gather together in prayer. They remind themselves that God is sovereign, ask Him for boldness, and continue proclaiming Jesus publicly. As the chapter continues, the Holy Spirit strengthens the church with unity, generosity, courage, and powerful witness. Acts 4 shows what happens when ordinary people are filled with the Spirit and fully surrendered to the mission of Jesus.

A Bit of Background

The Sanhedrin was the highest Jewish ruling council in Jerusalem and included religious leaders such as priests, scribes, and Sadducees. The Sadducees especially opposed the apostles because they did not believe in resurrection from the dead, making the message of Jesus' resurrection a direct challenge to both their theology and authority.

Peter and John were considered “uneducated and untrained” by the religious elite because they did not have formal rabbinical education. Yet the leaders were amazed by their boldness and recognized that they had been with Jesus. In the early church, prayer was not simply a private habit. It was central to how believers responded to pressure, opposition, uncertainty, and mission. The believers' willingness to share resources and care for one another also reflected the deep unity created by the Holy Spirit within the church community.