



## LAUNCH

Acts 1-6

# We Will Not be Silent

## Acts 4:1-31

- A. The Arrest - Peter and John (Acts 4:1-4)
- B. The Defense - Peter before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:5-22)
  - 1. Sanhedrin Q #1: "By what power or by what name did you do this?" [Heal of the Lame Man at the Beautiful; Gate]] (5-7)
  - 2. Peter's Response: "... by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead." (8-12)
  - 3. Reaction of the Sanhedrin:
    - a. Sanhedrin Q#2: "What shall we do with these men?" (13-18)
    - b. Sanhedrin's Decision: "let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." (17-18)
  - 4. Peter and John's Response - "... we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." (19-22)
- C. The Prayer of the Jerusalem Christians (Acts 4:23-31)
  - A. Occasion (4:23-24c)
  - B. Components (4:24d-30)
    - 1. Acknowledgment of God's Sovereign Power (4:24d—28)
    - 2. Petition for God's presence and power (4:29-30)
- D. The Answer to Prayer (4:31)

## Discussion Questions

- 1. Read Acts 4:8. In this verse we read that Peter was "filled with the Holy Spirit" before he speaks. Why is it important to be filled with the Spirit before we speak? What are the likely outcomes if we speak out of our fleshly nature without being filled with the Holy Spirit?
- 2. Read Acts 4:13. The verse says that the leaders in the Sanhedrin "recognized they [Peter and John] had been with Jesus." What does their reaction teach us about how we are perceived as fully devoted followers of Jesus by those we may enter into a dialogue with?
- 3. Read Acts 4:20. Why do we sometimes struggle to speak up about what God has done in our lives? What keeps you from embracing the mindset of Peter and John where we "Can't help but speak"?
- 4. Read Romans 10:14-15. When you think about sharing your faith what comes to mind? What are the implications of thinking about evangelism as joining others in their spiritual journey? How does that change the thoughts and images you often have associated with evangelism? (CRU)
- 5. Read 1 Peter 3:15. How can we be bold but also respectful and gentle in our declaration of what God has done in our lives?
- 6. Pray together asking God to make his presence known in the opportunities we have to share our faith with those who do not know Jesus yet and that his power will transform their lives with the gospel.

**Acts 4:1-31** And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them,<sup>2</sup> greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.<sup>3</sup> And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.<sup>4</sup> But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup> On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem,<sup>6</sup> with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.<sup>7</sup> And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,<sup>9</sup> if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,<sup>10</sup> let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.<sup>11</sup> This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.<sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

<sup>13</sup> Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.<sup>14</sup> But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.<sup>15</sup> But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another,<sup>16</sup> saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them it is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.<sup>17</sup> But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name."<sup>18</sup> So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.<sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge,<sup>20</sup> for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."<sup>21</sup> And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened.<sup>22</sup> For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

<sup>23</sup> When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.<sup>24</sup> And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,<sup>25</sup> who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

**"Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?**

**<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves**

**and the rulers were gathered together,**

**against the Lord and against his Anointed'—**

<sup>27</sup> for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,<sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.<sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,<sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."<sup>31</sup> 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.



## L.I.F.E. Group Leader's Guide

**Main Idea:** Peter and John's boldness through the power of the Holy Spirit in Acts 4 gives us insight into the protection and work of the Spirit in our lives as we live as disciples of Jesus and share the gospel.

**Looking Back:** Did you take time this last week to demonstrate your commitment/concern outside your core relationships?

**Ice breaker question:** Which of the following best describes you. Are you more likely to speak up and give someone a piece of your mind or are you more likely to keep quiet and say nothing.

**Follow Up Ice Breaker Question:** When has your natural tendency to speak up or keep quiet been beneficial and when has it been harmful?

**Study Question #1:** Read Acts 4:8. In this verse we read that Peter was "filled with the Holy Spirit" before he speaks. Why is it important to be filled with the Spirit before we speak? What are the likely outcomes if we speak out of our fleshly nature without being filled with the Holy Spirit?

**Study Question #2:** Read Acts 4:13. The verse says that the leaders in the Sanhedrin "recognized they [Peter and John] had been with Jesus." What does their reaction teach us about how we are perceived as fully devoted followers of Jesus by those we may enter into a dialogue with?

**Study Question #3:** Read Acts 4:20. Why do we sometimes struggle to speak up about what God has done in our lives? What keeps you from embracing the mindset of Peter and John where we "Can't help but speak...?"

**Study Question #4:** Read Romans 10:14-15. When you think about sharing your faith what comes to mind? What are the implications of thinking about evangelism as joining others in their spiritual journey? How does that change the thoughts and images you often have associated with evangelism?(**CRU**)

**Study Question #5:** Read 1 Peter 3:15. How can we be bold but also respectful and gentle in our declaration of what God has done in our lives?

**Study Question #6:** Pray together asking God to make his presence known in the opportunities we have to share our faith with those who do not know Jesus yet and that his power will transform their lives with the gospel.

### DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS (CRU)

- 1) What does this passage tell you about God and His Character?
- 2) What does this passage tell you about People?
- 3) What does this passage tell you about His relationship with people?
- 4) How might the Holy Spirit be prompting you to live differently?

