



Acts: God in Action through Us

Acts 4:23-37 Introduction

Share the following with your group: "What is the hardest thing you find in being a follower of Jesus?"

Peter and John had been jailed, threatened and commanded by the religious leaders 'not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.' In spite of this, they had preached boldly, done miraculous signs and many more people had been added to their number. Peter had even given a powerful sermon in the Sanhedrin to the 'rulers and elders of the people' where he argued that it was right to obey God rather than men. Peter and John were released and went back to the other apostles and believers, to their own people.

1. What do the believer's pray? (in 4:24-31) In what way is this surprising?

2. What can we learn for our own prayer life?

The believer's quote Psalm 2 in their prayers. Psalm 2 describes the kings of this world lined up against God's Holy King. God's King laughs at the puniness of their opposition, and warns them to submit before it's too late.

3. In what way do the apostles 'live out' the message of Psalm 2?

4. "Peter and John are heroes of the faith. I'm just a normal person, I can't possibly be as bold as them." What do you think about this comment?

After the believer's pray they are 'filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the word of God boldly'. In verse 32 it says that 'all the believer's were one in heart and mind'

5. What is the significance of the believer's unity in the midst of their mission and power being challenged?

6. Make a list of all the characteristics and actions of the believers from verses 32-37.

7. What is the hardest thing you find, from that list, in being a follower of Jesus? As a Home Group how can you encourage that change in each other? Pray.