



BECOMING THE CHURCH

A PRAYING CHURCH

Acts 4:23–31 | October 11, 2026 | Pastor Jenna Luoto

SERMON SUMMARY

Worshiping in the gym instead of the sanctuary snaps us out of the same old routine, and Pastor Jenna uses that jolt to ask a harder question: what else in our faith has become familiar enough to fade into white noise? We are saturated with Christian content on our shirts, our playlists, our feeds, and our phone backgrounds, and we believe all of it is true. But we can believe something doctrinally without being formed by it practically. K1 says every week that we are a Pray First Church. So is prayer actually our instinctive response when life happens, or do we reach for our phone, a search bar, a friend, or our own problem solving first? The church in Acts leaves no question. Acts 2:42 says they were devoted to prayer, and Acts 4 shows us why. When Peter and John were released from prison, the church prayed to the Sovereign Lord, the ruler whose authority cannot be questioned. They read their moment through Psalm 2 and recognized it as part of God's story. Then they asked not for rescue but for boldness. Underneath all of it, they were devoted to prayer because they were devoted to God. Jenna's call this week is not simply to pray more. It is to repent of a Christianity that costs us very little, and to ask the Spirit to awaken what has grown comfortable in us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Pastor Jenna said familiarity can turn the things of God into white noise. Where has that happened for you? Name something you believe completely but no longer actually feel.
- 2 Be honest about the instinct. When something unexpected hit you this past week, what did you reach for first: your phone, a friend, your own problem solving, or prayer?
- 3 The church in Acts prayed to the "Sovereign Lord," a ruler whose authority cannot be questioned. When life gets hard, is that what you actually believe about God, or does it feel more like He is absent?
- 4 Jenna said prayer was not about bringing their circumstances to God, it was about seeing their circumstances through God. What situation in your life right now would look different if you prayed that way?
- 5 They asked for boldness to persevere, not for deliverance from the trial. What would change in your prayers if you stopped asking God to fix your life and started asking Him to use it?
- 6 **This week's challenge:** Jenna called us to repentance rather than to a prayer goal. From her list, name the one that lands: faith that stays familiar, a Christianity that costs little, calling Jesus Lord while living as though you are, self-sufficiency, or prayer as a last resort. Say it out loud to this group, then make prayer your first move this week before you troubleshoot, scroll, or ask anyone else.

Last Week's Challenge Update:

Last Sunday was a pause. Instead of a new challenge, we looked back over the series, named one next step, and named someone to walk with us in it. Before you start today, go around and share the step you named and how this week actually went.