

# GROUP NOTES

N O M A L  
R A D I C A L

## WEEK 1

### OPENING QUESTION

*What do you daydream about? When do you daydream most?*

### SCRIPTURE

Read Acts 4:1-22 (For context, read Acts 3 as well)

### BIG IDEAS

Our teaching series over the next few weeks will be focused on finding ways to live out radical discipleship in the midst of very normal lives. Perhaps you daydream about greatness – doing wonderful things for God, giving huge amounts of money away, discovering a breakthrough in your field that helps millions... Most of us live for big moments. Yet, most of our actual lives are lived out in the daily, normal acts of faithfulness.

*>> Read Acts 4:1-22. What stands out to you as “normal” about Peter and John? How does that contrast with their somewhat radical response to the scrutiny of the Jewish council? Is their “radical” and “normal” connected?*

The main idea we’re looking into is this: **Normal becomes radical when we’re taught to trust and treasure the truth.**

Let’s look into this more closely.

The disciples were frustrating the Jewish council because they were teaching the truths of the gospel. If you read 4:1-5, take note of how many times words like “teach” or “proclaim” are used. They were actively sharing their faith.

*>> What keeps you from proclaiming the truths of the gospel? What would it take for you to be more secure in sharing the story of Jesus?*

In vv. 5-16 we learn exactly how much the Apostles trusted in the truths they had been taught. They were hauled in front of the very same Jewish council that had only weeks before accused Jesus. Here we learn something: teaching the truth of the gospel will always test our trust, because at some point we will encounter pressure to stop. The Apostles bravely and faithfully proclaimed the gospel, even to the very people who had the power to kill them.

*>> What does trusting the gospel look like for you at work? What are you afraid of when speaking about Jesus?*

The story ends with the Apostles being set free after the Jewish leaders had remarked that the Apostles had “been with Jesus.” Trusting and treasuring the truths of the gospel caused them to exude the presence of Jesus, even in a tough situation. Your normal will become radical when you treasure and trust the teachings of Scripture in those very same normal tasks. It’s not about the big moments in life, but about faithfulness in the small, hidden, incremental ones.

*>> What is one normal area of life that needs to be reshaped by your trust in the truth? What steps are you willing to take today to make that change?*

### PRAY

As you end today, pray for each other in your group.