

# NEW LIFE ONE STUDIES



**Series: ‘You Are The Church’  
Week 6 Study Guide**

*Message:*

**“Boldness in a Resistant Culture.”**

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## **SCRIPTURE**

<b>Main Text:</b>	<b>Other Text:</b>
<b>Acts 4:1-31</b>	<i>Psalm 118:22, Psalm 2:1-2, Matthew 5:10-12, John 15:18-19, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Matthew 3:11</i>

## **UNDERSTANDING THE STORY**

*(This section focuses on understanding what the text means —  
before jumping to what it means for us.)*

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**Read Acts 4:1-12**

**Main Idea:**

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith and the source of our boldness.

### **Commentary:**

After healing the lame man, Peter and John found themselves facing opposition from the religious leaders. The miracle itself wasn't the problem—the message behind it was.

The apostles boldly proclaimed that Jesus had risen from the dead and that salvation is found in Him alone. This challenged the religious system and threatened the authority of those in power.

What transformed Peter from a fearful disciple who denied Jesus into a courageous witness willing to risk imprisonment? He encountered the risen Christ. The resurrection changed everything.

Because Jesus is alive, His followers can live with confidence, courage, and hope even when facing resistance.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why were the religious leaders disturbed by Peter and John's message?
2. How did the resurrection change Peter's life?
3. Why is the resurrection central to the Christian faith?

### **Takeaway:**

*Bold faith begins with confidence that Jesus is alive and still at work today.*

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**Read Acts 4:13-22**

### **Main Idea:**

Courage comes from being with Jesus.

## **Commentary:**

The religious leaders were astonished by Peter and John's boldness because they were ordinary, unschooled men. Yet they recognized something undeniable—they had been with Jesus.

Peter and John did not rely on education, status, or personal influence. Their confidence came from the Holy Spirit and their relationship with Christ.

When ordered to stop speaking about Jesus, they respectfully but firmly refused. They understood that obedience to God must come before the approval of people.

Their response reminds us that courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is choosing obedience even when there are consequences.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to the religious leaders about Peter and John?
2. Why is it often difficult to stand for what is right?
3. What does it mean to obey God above public opinion?

## **Takeaway:**

*Boldness grows when we spend time with Jesus and choose obedience over approval.*

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***Read Acts 4:23-31***

## **Main Idea:**

Prayer fuels boldness and invites God's power.

## **Commentary:**

After being threatened, Peter and John returned to the other believers. Instead of praying for safety or comfort, they prayed for greater boldness.

They recognized that opposition was not a surprise to God. Rather than asking for the threats to disappear, they asked God to help them continue proclaiming His truth with courage.

God answered their prayer powerfully. The place where they were gathered was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued speaking God's Word boldly.

Throughout Acts, we see that prayer was not a last resort—it was the church's first response.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What would you have been tempted to pray for in their situation?
2. Why do you think they prayed for boldness instead of protection?
3. How did God respond to their prayer?

### **Takeaway:**

*When God's people pray together, He empowers them to fulfill His mission.*

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### ***Read Acts 4:23-31 Again***

### **Main Idea:**

Resistance is often evidence that God is moving.

### **Commentary:**

Whenever the Gospel advances, opposition follows. The enemy seeks to discourage, distract, silence, and divide God's people.

The early church understood this reality. They did not panic when resistance came; they expected it and turned to God for strength.

The same is true today. Following Jesus will sometimes bring criticism, rejection, or pressure from the surrounding culture. Yet God remains faithful to empower His people through every challenge.

Our goal is not simply to remain comfortable but to remain faithful.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why does opposition often accompany God's work?
2. What kinds of resistance do Christians face today?
3. How can believers prepare for challenges without becoming fearful?

**Takeaway:**

*When God moves, resistance rises—but God always provides the courage we need.*

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## **MAKE IT PERSONAL**

Acts 4 reminds us that bold faith is not reserved for pastors, missionaries, or church leaders. Every follower of Jesus is called to courageously represent Christ in a resistant culture.

The early church did not pray for easier circumstances. They prayed for greater boldness.

**Reflect:**

1. Where do you feel pressure to stay silent about your faith?
2. What fears keep you from speaking openly about Jesus?

3. How would your prayers change if you prayed for boldness instead of comfort?

4. In what area of your life is God calling you to greater courage?

**Key Truth:**

*God does not promise a life free from opposition, but He does promise His presence and power in the midst of it.*

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## **LIVING IT OUT**

Let this passage move you from reflection to action this week:

**Spend Time with Jesus**

Boldness begins in God's presence. Prioritize prayer, worship, and Scripture each day.

**Pray for Courage**

Ask God to help you obey Him even when it feels uncomfortable or costly.

**Speak the Name of Jesus**

Look for opportunities to naturally share your faith, testimony, or encouragement with others.

**Pray Together**

Join with other believers in prayer for your church, your community, and God's mission.

**Choose Faithfulness Over Comfort**

When faced with difficult decisions, ask: "Is it right?" rather than "Is it easy?" or "Is it popular?"

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*For LifeGroups:*

## **ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER**

Talk through these together:

1. When have you experienced opposition because of your faith?
2. What helps you remain faithful when facing criticism or rejection?
3. Why do you think the early church emphasized prayer so strongly?
4. What would it look like for our church to pray more boldly and expectantly?

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## **PRAY TOGETHER**

Thank God for the courage and faithfulness of the early church.

Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit and greater boldness.

Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with others.

Pray for believers around the world who face persecution for their faith.

Pray for unity within the church and for God's mission to advance through His people.

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## **Final Thoughts:**

The believers in Acts 4 understood something we often forget: courage is not the absence of fear—it is faith-filled obedience in the face of fear.

When opposition came, they didn't retreat. They prayed. When they were threatened, they didn't become silent. They became bolder. When resistance increased, God empowered them through His Spirit.

We live in a culture that often resists the truth of Jesus, but the mission remains the same. God is still looking for ordinary people who will trust Him, pray boldly, and faithfully proclaim His name.

**When God moves, resistance rises. We don't fear it—we prepare for it through prayer, unity, and dependence on the Holy Spirit.**