

GO FISH

Because Of What's On The Line

LESSON 3 – FISH GUTS

*“On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one. ²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.’ ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” **Acts 4:23-31 (NIV)***

Christians in the first century were motivated by the sudden realization that they were living in the midst of God's unfolding plan for the world. As we explore this reality in our lives today, we are equally motivated to go fish.

1. God, who is **Sovereign**, made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in it.
2. **Telling** others about Jesus can be intimidating, overwhelming, and even disturbing. There is something about trying to convince another person to adopt a whole new belief system that seems daunting and uncomfortable.
3. Why would we **fear** telling others about Jesus when we have a Sovereign God.
4. God is as **active now** as he was with the believers in Acts 4 and they had to face rejection from society, persecution, or even death.
5. In light of God's sovereignty over the events in their lives, the believers in Acts 4 prayed for **boldness**.
6. Boldness is simply **speaking up** when the opportunity comes up.
7. If we examine the motivation behind the disciples' **courage**, we can begin to find similar motivation in our own lives.