

# The Church **IGNITED**

Courage Under Fire (Acts 4:1-31)

## REVIEW OF ACTS 1-3

- ▶ Acts 1: Waiting for Holy Spirit POWER
  - Acts 1:8 - You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
- ▶ Acts 2: Receiving Holy Spirit POWER
- ▶ Acts 3: Yielding to Holy Spirit POWER

## OUR CALLING AS WITNESSES

- ▶ Open-Water Living ▶ Empowered & Led by the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Seeking & Taking Divine Appointments
- ▶ **RESULTS** – God is Glorified ▶ Trouble for the Apostles ▶ Church Growth

PRINCIPLE #1: Obedient Christ-followers should expect spiritual opposition.  
(John 15:18; 2 Timothy 3:12)

## GLORY, TROUBLE & CHURCH GROWTH (vv. 1-4)

- Acts 4:21 – They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.
- Acts 4:4 – Many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

## INTERROGATION & BOLD WITNESS (vv. 5-12)

- Acts 4:12 - Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

PRAYER FOR SALVATION: Lord Jesus, I now realize that You are my only hope to be forgiven, saved & securely adopted into the forever family of God. Your death on the cross was for me. So I receive You into my life right now as Lord & Savior. I believe the Good News & choose to follow You for the rest of my days. Please come into my heart to cleanse me of my sin & empower me to live as You desire. Amen.

- OWN YOUR DECISION - TEXT: "Surrendered" to 888111
- ▶ Witness (μαρτυρία *maturia*) = One who faithfully gives testimony about what they know is true.
- ▶ Different witness (evangelistic) styles:
  - ① Confrontational Style –
  - ② Intellectual Style –
  - ③ Testimonial Style –
  - ④ Interpersonal Style –
  - ⑤ Invitational Style –
  - ⑥ Serving Style –

PRINCIPLE #2: God gives you His Holy Spirit for "open water living"... to enable you to be a faithful witness for Jesus Christ.

## WILL THREATS & INTIMIDATION (OPPOSITION) SHUT YOU UP? (vv. 13-22)

PRINCIPLE #3: When we hang tough through opposition for our Lord, we become stronger.

PRAYER FOR BOLDNESS... BOLDNESS RECEIVED (vv. 23-31)

- ▶ FAITH AFFIRMATION: "Yes Lord, I will be your witness!"

## LifeGroup Questions - Doing Life Together

Week of Sep 6-12, 2020

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### PRAYER

Take a few moments to check in with your group to see how everyone is doing, then ask God to guide your time together.

### MY STORY

Describe a time you had an encounter with authorities. What happened and how were things resolved?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. What from Sunday's message gave you new insight into having courage in ministry? Explain.
2. **Read Acts 4:1-4.** Why were Peter and John arrested after doing something amazing? How do you think the arrest and night in prison made Peter and John feel?
3. What about Peter and John's message most bothered the religious authorities? Why do you think this was the case?
4. What was the impact of Peter and John's preaching? Does the result surprise you? Why or why not?
5. **Read Acts 4:5-12.** After spending the night in jail, Peter and John were called in for questioning by the religious authorities. What question were they asked, and how did they answer? How did their response show great courage?

6. **Read Acts 4:13-15.** How did the religious leaders react to Peter and John's answer? Why do you think they reacted this way?
7. **Read Acts 4:15-22.** After conferring together, what did the religious leaders decide to do regarding Peter and John? What was the main motivation for making this decision? How well did their plan work, and what was Peter and John's response?

### DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

8. **Read Acts 4:23-31.** After being released, Peter and John went back to the Jerusalem church and gave a full report of all that happened. Their report caused the people to pray. In bullet statements briefly summarize each part of the prayer. What part of the prayer stands out most to you? Why?

### TAKING IT HOME

9. Write out a short prayer to God based on this Acts 4 passage regarding what you would ask God to do as you seek to be faithful witnesses for Christ.

### PRAYING TOGETHER

Share prayer needs and pray for the members of your group. Perhaps pray the prayers you have written out in question 9 above. Ask God to help you be courageous in sharing the Good News with others.