



ACTS 4 • WEEK 4

Praying for Boldness

Acts 4:23–31

LARGE PRINT EDITION

TOGETHER • GOD'S WORD • GOD'S RULE • BOLDNESS



Prepare Your Heart

LET GOD'S WORD TEACH US HOW TO PRAY

Before You Begin

- Read Acts 4:23–31 slowly. Keep your Bible open as you work through this guide.
- Remember the setting: Peter and John have been threatened and ordered to stop speaking in the name of Jesus.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see how the church responds when obedience brings pressure.
- Use the spaces in this guide to record what you observe, what God's Word teaches, and how you will respond.

Big Question

How should followers of Jesus pray when obedience brings pressure?

Big Idea

When pressure comes, faithful witnesses return to God's people, pray God's Word, trust God's rule, and ask the Holy Spirit for courage to keep speaking about Jesus.

Observe the Passage

1. Where do Peter and John go after they are released, and what do they report?
2. What truths about God appear before the believers make their request?
3. Which words or ideas from Psalm 2 appear in the prayer?
4. What do the believers ask God to do in verses 29–30?
5. What happens after they pray in verse 31?



Understand the Text

They Return to Their Own Company

Peter and John do not carry the threat alone. They return to the other believers and report what the chief priests and elders said. The report gives the church a shared burden and prepares it for united prayer.

They Lift One Voice to God

The believers respond “with one accord.” This does not require every person to speak the same words at the same moment. It describes unity of heart and purpose. Pressure that could have divided them becomes a reason to seek God together.

They Begin with God’s Rule

They address God as the Lord who has complete authority and remember Him as Creator of heaven, earth, sea, and everything in them. The council has real power, but it is limited. Prayer places the threat inside God’s much greater rule.

They Pray Scripture

The church prays from Psalm 2. Scripture gives language to its pressure and helps the believers understand that opposition to God’s Anointed One is real but cannot overthrow God’s purpose. God’s Word interprets the threat instead of allowing fear to interpret God.



Understand the Text Continued

Jesus Remains Central

The believers identify Jesus as God's holy Servant—the One chosen, anointed, and sent by the Father. Their prayer does not make the apostles heroes. Their courage and mission come from the faithful Servant who obeyed the Father even unto the cross.

Responsibility and God's Rule

Herod, Pilate, the Gentiles, and people of Israel made real decisions against Jesus and remained responsible for those choices. Yet their evil actions could not cancel God's saving purpose. The cross holds both truths together: human sin is real, and God does not lose control.

Their Request Is Faithfulness

The believers ask God to notice the threats, but they do not ask first for comfort, revenge, or escape. They call themselves God's servants and ask for boldness to speak His Word. Their identity shapes their request: "How can we obey God in this?"

God Answers the Prayer

The place is shaken as a sign of God's presence. More importantly, the believers are filled with the Holy Spirit and speak God's Word with boldness. The threat remains, but fear does not silence the church. Continued obedience is the lasting evidence of answered prayer.



Reflect and Respond

NAME THE PRESSURE • PRAY THE WORD • ASK FOR BOLDNESS

Think It Through

Where am I tempted to isolate, become silent, or try to control the outcome?

What Scripture helps me understand this pressure through God's truth?

Am I asking only for comfort or escape, or also for faithfulness and courage?

What truth about Jesus must remain central in my response?

What is one clear act of obedience I can take this week?



Continue Your Study

Use the Online Study Guide

Return to the online study guide during the week for continued Scripture reading, reflection, and application. Bring your questions and insights to your Life Group so that you can grow with God's people rather than carry pressure alone.

My Forward & Higher Next Step

The pressure I will bring to God and God's people:

The Scripture that will shape my response:

The faithful step I will take this week:

Closing Prayer

Father, teach me to bring pressure to You and to Your people. Let Your Word correct my fears and shape my response. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Give me courage to speak Your Word clearly, live faithfully, and make Jesus known. In Jesus' name, amen.