

The Church is Born: Boldness
Growth Group Discussion Guide
Acts 4:23-31

Intro questions

- Share about a time when you were willing to take a risk for some cause.
- Take a moment to pray, asking for God’s Spirit to lead your discussion.

1. Read Acts 4:23-31, then discuss the following.

- Why do you think that the believers’ first action, after being released and recounting their ordeal, was to pray?
- Notice the details of their prayer:
 - Why do you think that they address God as “Sovereign Lord” on this occasion? (Leaders: Pastor James, on Sunday, suggested that they recognized their “backing” as they prayed).
 - The believers recount God’s work in creation. Why? (Leaders: James suggested that they recognized the “basis” for their prayers—God made everything.)
 - Why would they reference Psalm 2:1-2 in this prayer? What might we learn from this example?
 - What sticks out to you about their recounting of Jesus’ death, in vv. 27-28?
 - What are the specific things that the believers request, in vv. 29-30? Why these things?
 - Why does Luke give us the summary statement in v. 31?
- When you face resistance for your faith, what kinds of things do you tend to pray for?
- How does this passage challenge you?

2. Application

- How do you feel about the suggestion that we *should* be praying for boldness, so that we might testify about Jesus?
- How do your own limitations tend to frame your prayers? Do you think you ever limit what God can do?
- James pointed out the balance in the believers’ prayers here. Do your prayers tend to reflect this kind of balance? What about our collective prayers? Why or why not?
- Do you think that, as James suggested, God does his best work when we face opposition? How does that work?
- This week’s sermon argued that God has given you some unique calling that only you can do, and God has given you everything you need to do it. How do you feel about this claim?
- James also suggested that there is a correlation between praying for boldness, and recognizing the divine appointments that God has prepared for us.
 - Have you ever experienced any of these divine appointments? Please share about one or two.
 - Why do you think this correlation exists?
- What are some specific areas where you need boldness currently?

3. Prayer: Spend some time praying, not only for your group’s specific needs, but also for boldness. Try praying in the manner that the believers prayed in Acts 4!