

at 48
A Call for Our Church
to Delight in Prayer

Lord,
Teach Us
to Pray

Power of Prayer: Fearless Witness

ACTS 4:23-31

STUDY GUIDE

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WELCOME:
Fixing
Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Ask GG members to share an experience of overcoming their fears and apprehensions. What enabled them to do this? Use this to segue into the lesson, where the disciples prayed for boldness to declare God's Word despite threats from their religious leaders.

WORSHIP:
Adoring
Our God

Suggested song:

[Rise My Soul, The Lord is Risen](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will pray for God's grace so that they can faithfully persevere through persecution.
2. GG members will pray that God provide them with boldness to share the gospel message with others.

INTRODUCTION

Peter and John were arrested by the Jewish religious leaders for preaching in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:1-3). They were charged and threatened not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus Christ. But they responded by saying that they cannot help but speak of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:18-21).

The believers pray for boldness to share God's word (vv. 23-31)

After Peter and John shared with the believers what had happened to them, they came together in prayer, asking God to give them boldness to continue speaking in his name despite the threats of the Jewish religious leaders. God responded by filling them with the Holy Spirit, enabling them to continue boldly proclaiming God's word.

1. What did Peter and John relay to the believers? (cf. Acts 4:1-22)
2. How did the body of believers respond to this? What can we learn from their example?
3. What did the believers acknowledge about God in verse 24?
4. Why do you think they quoted from Psalm 2:1-2? How did they connect this to Jesus Christ?¹
5. What did they pray for despite the threats they received from their religious leaders? What does this tell us about our responsibility as believers?
6. Why didn't they pray for the removal of persecution? (cf. John 15:20)
7. What happened after they prayed? What can you conclude from this about God's will?

¹ Psalm 2 is considered a messianic psalm. In the original context, David wrote this regarding the nations surrounding Israel, who raged against God, his anointed (the king), and his nation. The disciples rightly interpreted this psalm as pertaining to Jesus Christ. They saw his unjust trial and crucifixion as the result of the rage of the Jewish religious rulers and Gentile kings against God and His anointed Son. This passage will ultimately be fulfilled at the end times, when the nations of the world will rise up against Jesus when He returns to rule the world.

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

APPLICATION

Christ commanded us, believers, to make disciples of all nations by sharing God's Word with them, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to do all that Christ commanded. He taught us to expect the world to hate us as it hated Him. How can you be faithful to Christ's command to make disciples? What is the importance of prayer in this endeavor?

PRAYER ITEM

Father God, we praise and thank You for making a way for us to be reconciled with You. It is Your desire that all peoples repent of their sins and turn to Jesus Christ in faith. As believers, You have commissioned us to take part in Your work in this world of reconciling them back to You (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). Grant us boldness, and the words so speak that we may share the gospel message with others around us. May we be found faithful to Your calling. In Christ's name we pray. Amen. ■

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your feedback.

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Thank you!



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