

# STUDY GUIDE

MAY 15, 2022

ACTS | FEARLESS COURAGE

ACTS 4:1-31

**Note to Leaders:** Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group from each section below.

## WORK AHEAD | HOW CAN I COME PREPARED FOR MY GROUP?

1. Read Acts 4:1-31.
2. Look over your message notes. What was surprising or insightful? What questions were raised?
3. If time allows, look ahead at the "Digging In" section and think through how you would contribute to your group discussion.

## FOR STARTERS | THOUGHTS TO GET US ON THE SAME PAGE

1. What book, podcast or movie do you find yourself recommending to people over and over?
2. Do you consider yourself more "bold" or "timid" when it comes to talking with unchurched friends about Jesus?

## DIGGING IN | DISCOVERING WHAT GOD SAYS IN SCRIPTURE

**The difference being with Jesus makes.**

Read Luke 12:11-12 and 21:12-19.

1. What did Jesus warn His students would happen?
2. What did He tell them NOT to do?
3. What did He promise?

Read Luke 22:54-62. Then read through Acts 4:8-13.

1. What changed for Peter between his denial of Jesus and the boldness you see here?

Read Colossians 4:5-6 and 1 Peter 3:15.

1. Do you feel like you're a non-anxious and winsome witness for Christ?

2. What's one step you can take this week to prepare to share and live the Good News?

### **Corruption? Persecution? It's all part of the plan.**

In Acts 4:25–28, Peter and John led a prayer meeting with their church, with Psalm 2 in the back of their minds. Read Psalm 2 together.

1. How did Psalm 2 “come true” in the story of Jesus’ death on the cross?
3. What is God’s response to the plotting and conspiring of the world’s rulers?
4. At the end of the Psalm, what is the advice given to the world’s rulers?
5. You would expect Peter and John to be discouraged after being arrested for talking publicly about Jesus. What was their response instead?
6. How does Peter and John’s response make you feel in the midst of our American culture that is increasingly anti-Bible and anti-Jesus?
7. What would this kind of courage and boldness for Christ look like when you go to school or work?

## **BRINGING IT HOME | APPLYING WHAT WE’VE LEARNED**

### **Personal Reflection**

Put yourself in the shoes of Christians in Communist China. How would you see yourself responding to threats of job loss, public shame and imprisonment for speaking the name of Jesus?

### **Group Application**

As a group talk about who you are more like and why: Peter in the courtyard who choked or Peter before the “Supreme Court” who stood tall for Christ. Talk about how as a group or family we can encourage each other to have more boldness for Jesus. End your time together praying for God to fill you with His Spirit and grant greater boldness.

## **DIGGING DEEPER | IDEAS TO KEEP GROWING DURING THE WEEK**

1. Open Doors maintains a list of the world’s most dangerous places to be a Christian. [Check out the list](#) and spend time praying for strength and boldness for believers in each of these countries.
2. How do you answer the tough questions about issues like science and faith or the Bible’s reliability in a succinct and conversational way? [Check out this series of short videos](#) from “Thinking Faith” to grow as a Joyful Witness.