



Acts - The Birth of the Church - Week 7 - Power to Witness

Acts 4:1-31

Questions

1. **(Icebreaker)** Pastor Shaen mentioned the video from 2015 of 21 Egyptian Christians being beheaded for their faith. If you recall that time, how did that make you feel?
2. **Main Idea: We Are Empowered to Stand Firm in Opposition.** Have you ever experienced persecution for your faith? Be sure to include even mild situations of isolation or disdain. How did you handle this at the time?
3. If you have time in your group, read the whole passage out loud together (Acts 4:1-31). In what situations was the Old Testament quoted? Why do you think Peter and John thought of those particular passages? How should this inform our prayer lives and our witnessing?"
4. Notice the Sadducees mentioned in verse 1. Have someone in the group use their phone to put, "Who were the Sadducees?" into ChatGPT or Google and share key points. Many of the leaders named, like Annas and Caiaphas, were likely Sadducees. What part of their distinctive beliefs would put them at odds with Jesus followers?
5. **Point #1: The Holy Spirit Gives Us Boldness.** When was the last time you asked God to fill you with boldness? In what situations do you find yourself where a bold witness is needed? Share any strategies you use with one another.
6. **Point #2: Jesus Gives Us a Testimony.** We all have a story. What part of your story have you shared while being a witness? Could you prepare ahead of time so that you have an "elevator pitch"-sized testimony to share? If you've never really shared a testimony and aren't sure what to say, chat with your group members who can help guide you to a story that highlights what Jesus has done for you.
7. **Point #3: God's Sovereignty Gives Us Security** Which phrases in this passage show that the disciples counted on God's sovereignty? Consider Psalm 23 (or read it out loud) and pick out words or phrases that show us God's control in every circumstance. Do you find it easy to emotionally rely on that security that your mind already understands?
8. Pray that God will give us the boldness and power to witness wherever He leads us.

