



Discussion Notes

Prayer For Boldness • Acts 4:23–31

January 25, 2026 • Luke Knight

Acts 3–4

- Peter and John heal a man at the temple gates, which attracts attention, and offers Peter the chance to share about Jesus. Many side with Jesus, and the community grows into the thousands.
- The two are arrested (along with the healed man), and the high council questions them with the aim of silencing the message. Peter ("filled with the Spirit") doesn't back down, articulating who Jesus is clearly and that they will side with God on this, not the high council.
- Peter and John are released and return to the believing community.

Take a moment to read the passage outloud as a group or alone.

Acts 4:23–31

We can break the passage up into three sections: reaction, response, result.

The Reaction (togetherness and prayer)

- Return to the believing community and prayer together.
- Prayer as *reaction* to hardship.

The Response (the content of the prayer)

- Clarity on to whom they are praying ("Almighty... you made...").
- Clarity on moment through the lense of scripture (Psalm 2).
- Israel now lumped in with "the nations" who have risen up against the Lord.
- All this happens according to the Lord's will (no one can frustrate his plans).
- Asking for what they need, which is in line with the kingdom and will.

The Result (God's response)

- A physical sign (the place was shaken).
- They get what they ask: filled with the Spirit, continuing to share with boldness.

Discussion Questions

- What happens in this passage which appears to be particular to this historical moment?
- What happens in this passage we might naturally apply to being a believing community today?
- In this passage, the response of the believers is to pray and to engage scripture. What might we need to keep in mind if we were to follow a similar pattern?
- What does this passage tell us about our convictions about Jesus, his kingdom, and ourselves?
- How does this passage inform a believing community's response to hardship, or even oppression?
- What did you hear the Holy Spirit saying as you attended to his word?