

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 25, 2007

Passage: Acts 4:1-33

Memory Passage: Acts 4:12

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 4:1-4.** What were the disciples doing that upset the Jewish leaders?
- (b) What was the result of their preaching (Acts 4:4)? What results can we expect whenever we share the gospel (Acts 28:24; Acts 17:4-5; Acts 17:32-34)?
- (c) What should be our response when we are rejected in sharing the gospel (2 Timothy 2:24-26)?
- (d) What happened in Acts 16:16-23? What were some of the reasons that the gospel upset these?
- (e) When did the trial take place? Why didn't they have the trial at night? When did the trial of Jesus take place? When did it end (John 18:3-27)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 4:1-4 and 2 Timothy 2:24-26. Talk about why people reject the gospel and how they often respond. How did the religious leaders respond to Peter's preaching? How should we respond when people reject our message? Pray that you would have boldness and gentleness in sharing the gospel.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 4:5-12.** What question did the rulers ask the disciples? How did Peter respond? What did Paul say about using the opportunities that the Lord provides (Colossians 4:2-6)?
- (b) What happens to Peter in Acts 4:8? Compare this with Acts 2:4 and Acts 4:31. What have we learned about the baptism of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13) and the filling of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)?
- (c) What instructions did Jesus give to his disciples in Luke 12:11-12 (also Matthew 10:19-20; Luke 21:12-15)? Why is it important not to depend on a set evangelistic approach?
- (d) What did Peter tell believers in 1 Peter 3:15? Why is it important that we are *prepared*? How can we be prepared and still rely on the Spirit?
- (e) What three things does Peter proclaim about Jesus (Acts 4:10-12)? What does Peter call Jesus? What did this usually symbolize in Israel (Deuteronomy 32:4; 2 Samuel 22:2; Psalm 18:2; Isaiah 28:16, etc)? What did Jesus say about himself (John 14:6)?
- (f) *Family:* Acts 4:5-12 and John 14:6. Discuss the exclusiveness of the gospel. Are there other ways to get to heaven? Why not? How should we prepare so we can give an answer when people ask questions about the gospel? Pray for someone who is not a Christian that they might see that Jesus is the only way.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 4:13-22.** What two problems did the council face in dealing with Peter and John?
- (b) Are miracles absolute proof of God's work (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10; Deuteronomy 13:1-5)? What did these recognize about the disciples besides the miracle?
- (c) In Luke 16:27-31, what miracle did the rich man say would persuade his brothers? What did Abraham say was all they needed?
- (d) What did Peter refuse to do (also Acts 5:29)? Why? What did Paul conclude in 1 Corinthians 9:16?
- (e) Consider each of these acts of civil disobedience: Exodus 1:15-22; Daniel 3:15-26; Daniel 6:7-22. What was the basis of disobedience for each of these? What were each of these willing to risk? What was their attitude toward the governments (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-16)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 4:13-22 and 1 Timothy 2:1-2. What should our attitude be toward our government? Should we always obey it? When should we disobey? Why did Peter and the disciples disobey? Pray for your government to make godly decisions.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 4:23-31.** What did they do when they were told that the authorities commanded them to stop telling about Jesus?
- (b) How did they begin their prayer? What is the focus of their praying? How is this different from much praying today? How did they view prayer and the sovereignty of God (also 1 Peter 4:19)?
- (c) What did they request that the Lord would do for them (vv. 29-30)? What does this tell us about their main concern? How is this different from the way they approached rejection in Luke 9:51-56?
- (d) What happened when they prayed like this? What two things resulted after they prayed?
- (e) What did Jesus tell his disciples was a prerequisite for answered prayer (John 15:7; John 16:24)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 4:23-31 and John 15:7. Talk about the importance of prayer. How was their prayer different from most of ours? Why is it essential for us to pray believing in God's sovereign control over all things? Pray about a situation that seems impossible to you. Pray powerfully just as these disciples did.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 4:32-33.** Approximately how many believers gathered together into this one congregation (Acts 2:41; Acts 4:4)?
- (b) How is their relationship to one another described? What might these terms indicate (Romans 12:4-5; Romans 15:5-6; 1 Peter 3:8; 2 Corinthians 13:11)? What binds them together (1 Corinthians 10:17)?
- (c) What did this love lead them to do for one another (1 John 3:16-18)? What was their attitude toward their possessions?
- (d) How did this affect their witness (John 13:34-35; John 17:21)?
- (e) How does Luke summarize this section? Why is this an appropriate way to describe what was happening in the church (1 Peter 5:10-11)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 4:32-33 and 1 John 3:16-18. Discuss the way believers demonstrate love for each other. Talk about some ways you have been blessed by the loving actions of other believers. How do these actions give us boldness to share the gospel? How are these actions a testimony to the resurrection of Christ? Ask God to show you who you can reach out to this week in love.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Acts 4:1-33. How were the disciples persecuted? What were they told not to do? How did Peter respond? What should we do in similar situations today? How did these disciples pray together and how did it affect them? How does praying together and loving one another impact the church for reaching others? Pray for church services tomorrow that God might give us all boldness to speak to others about Jesus.

**DATE:** February 25, 2007

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***The Boldness of the Church***  
“...they spoke the Word of God with boldness.”