

The Power To Proclaim

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pastor Jacob Howell – 10.26.2025

—

Summary:

- This week we studied Acts 4:1-12, where Peter and John face opposition after healing a lame man and preaching about Jesus. Despite being arrested and questioned by the same religious leaders who crucified Jesus, Peter boldly proclaims that salvation is found in no other name but Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Key Takeaways:

1. The Attempt to Silence Sparks a Spread - When the gospel is opposed, it actually spreads further. God's purposes cannot be thwarted by human opposition.
2. Jesus is the Universal Savior - We serve the God of the universe who sees and cares about all people everywhere, yet He also cares intimately about each individual.
3. Opposition Comes in Waves - When knocked down by life's challenges, we get back up and take steps toward Jesus. Each time we rise, we're closer to solid ground.
4. Fan the Flame - We must actively cultivate the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives, especially when we don't feel bold or capable.
5. God Confidence Over Self-Confidence - True boldness comes from being filled with the Holy Spirit, not from our own abilities or circumstances.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you most about Peter's response to the religious leaders? How does his boldness compare to his earlier denial of Jesus?
2. Why do you think the religious leaders were "greatly disturbed" by the apostles' teaching? What specifically threatened them?
3. Peter was "filled with the Holy Spirit" when he answered. What role does the Holy Spirit play in giving believers boldness?

4. The sermon taught that "the attempt to silence sparks a spread." Have you seen examples of this principle in church history or current events? What does this teach us about opposition to the gospel?
5. Pastor Jacob said, "Let's be careful not to reduce the God of the universe to the minutia of the circumstance that is right in front of us." When have you been tempted to limit God to your immediate circumstances? How can we maintain a bigger view of God?
6. Discuss the "seesaw" illustration about confidence. Where do you currently find your confidence—in God or in circumstances? What shifts your confidence away from God?

Practical Applications:

1. Fan the Flame Daily: Set aside 10-15 minutes each day specifically to pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit and boldness to share the gospel.
2. Expand Your Vision: Read about what God is doing in the global church (Africa, Philippines, etc.) to build your faith and remind yourself of God's universal power.
3. Identify Your Hostile Environment: Where do you face opposition for your faith? Pray specifically for God-confidence in that area.
4. Operation Christmas Child: Commit as a group to fill shoeboxes together. Meet to pack them and pray over the children who will receive them.
5. Prayer Walking: Choose a location in your community and prayer walk together, asking God to open doors for gospel conversations.
6. Testimony Sharing: Practice sharing your testimony with each other (3-5 minutes each) to build confidence in proclaiming what God has done.

Closing Thoughts:

The greatest defense you will ever have is to just keep living for the gospel and preaching the gospel. God's Word never returns void—it always accomplishes what He desires.