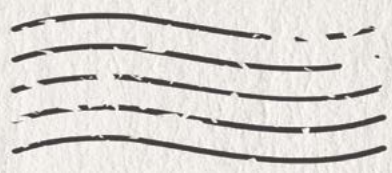


Acts 4:29 "And now, Lord, look upon their threats  
and grant to your servants to continue to speak your  
word with all boldness..."

BOLDNESS TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT JESUS



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week 5

# Boldness to Have Conversations About Jesus

**Acts 4:29: “And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness...”**

## introduction

In our country, we experience religious freedom. We will not be arrested for talking about Jesus or experience physical harm from the government for sharing our faith. However, believers in other parts of the world do not experience this luxury.

Despite our freedom, we sometimes struggle to engage in conversations about Jesus. Social pressure and workplace restrictions add to our angst. It's easy to tell everyone around us about our favorite sports team's win or the latest online sale. If Jesus has changed our lives, wouldn't we want more people to know about Him than about the Aggie's unbelievable comeback? What keeps us from speaking about Jesus boldly?

In Acts 3, Peter and John go to the temple and encounter a crippled man. They tell him about Jesus and tell him to walk in the name of Jesus. He not only walks, but he leaps and praises God. This attracts a large crowd, and Peter preaches about Jesus at the temple. This week, we'll pick up the story in Acts 4 to see what happens next.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:** God, let me speak Your word with all boldness!

**PRAYER PRACTICE:** Gather with 1-2 people this week. Pray together for the Holy Spirit to bring you into conversations about Jesus. Ask for boldness in those conversations as you speak of what Jesus has done in your life.



**POSTCARD:** Remove this week's postcard in the back of this guide, and put it in a prominent place as a reminder to pray. When you pray for someone else, write a note on the back of the postcard, and give it to them as an encouragement and an opportunity to start a conversation about Jesus.

# day 1

## READ ACTS 4:1-31

1 | Summarize the passage in 2-3 sentences.

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2 | Imagine you are Peter and John in vv. 1-12. What would you be thinking and feeling?

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3 | Peter has a surprisingly easy-to-start conversation when the rulers ask him, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" (v. 7) How did Peter respond?

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4 | Restate v. 12 in your own words.

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5 | Peter had answers when asked about his faith, both for the crowd (ch. 3) and for the rulers (ch. 4). How would you explain your faith if asked?

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## PRAY

In the space below, copy this week’s simple prayer: **God, let me speak Your word with all boldness!**

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After studying this passage today, pray this prayer adapted from *The Divine Hours: Prayers for Summertime*. Pray it now and whenever needed:

**“Almighty God whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give me courage to speak about and follow Him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”**

day 2

## READ ACTS 4:13-22

Boldness: *παρρησία parrēsia*

Spirit-inspired courage and confidence to speak despite any danger or threat.  
Free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, assurance.

\*blueletterbible.org; ESV Study Bible; Logos

1 | How did Peter and John demonstrate boldness (v. 13)? Review Day 1 and use the definition above to help with your answer.

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2 | The rulers recognized that Peter and John “had been with Jesus” (v. 13). What do you think the rulers saw in them?

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3 | The rulers were “astonished” at their boldness because they were “uneducated, common men” (v. 13). This doesn’t mean they were ignorant or unintelligent. Rather, they did not have formal rabbinic training. Where do you feel “uneducated and common”? What made the difference for Peter and John? How does that encourage you?

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4 | What did the council ask Peter and John to do (v. 18)? What was their response (vv. 19-20)?

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5 | How do people recognize that you have “been with Jesus”?

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6 | What has Jesus done in your life that, like Peter and John, you “cannot but speak of what [you] have seen and heard” (v. 20)?

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### PRAY

End your study time today by praying our simple prayer for the week: **God, let me speak Your word with all boldness!**

*Acts 4:29 “And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness...”*

# day 3

## READ ACTS 4:23-31

1 | Upon release from the council, what did Peter and John immediately do (vv. 23-24)?

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2 | What different parts of prayer do you see represented (vv. 24-30)?

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3 | Why is it significant that they started praying by acknowledging God's sovereignty?

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4 | Remember, Peter and John had just been released from prison and told not to speak about Jesus. What did they ask for (vv. 29-30)? What did they not ask for that you may have expected?

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5 | The believers prayed this prayer together. What happened when they were done (v. 31)? What do you think is the significance of them praying this prayer together?

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## PRAY

Pray this week's simple prayer for the women of our church: **God, let me speak Your word with all boldness!**

- Pray for opportunities in their everyday lives to have conversations about Jesus.
- Pray for confidence in their Divine Platforms — how God has shaped them and where He has placed them.
- Pray for courage to tell others how Jesus has changed their lives.

*day 4*

### READ EPHESIANS 6:18B-20

God's Word is full of prayers. Every week, we will examine a prayer in the Bible with a similar theme to our study.

- 1 | Scholars differ on whether the Apostle Paul wrote Ephesians from prison or under house arrest. Paul experienced a loss of freedom, whether in a dank, vermin-infested place with no indoor plumbing or a rented house he couldn't leave. What does Paul ask for in prayer? Why is this significant?

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- 2 | Immediately before this prayer request, Paul talks about spiritual warfare with the Ephesians (vv. 10-18). How do conversations about Jesus relate to spiritual warfare?

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- 3 | Read Ephesians 6:12. How do you see this at work in Acts 4? How does this verse help as you talk about your faith?

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4 | We often think of Paul as a “super-apostle.” He wrote half the books of the New Testament and preached throughout the known world at the time. And yet, he asked people to pray that he would boldly have conversations about Jesus. How does this help as you think about your conversations?

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**PRAY**

Write a prayer based on our simple prayer: **God, let me speak Your word with all boldness!**

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*day 5*

**READ ACTS 4:29**

1 | You may not get arrested for your faith, but what risks do you face speaking boldly about Jesus?

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2 | When you face threats or danger, what do you typically pray for? What can you learn from the prayer in v. 29?

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3 | We believe God has given everyone a Divine Platform: Where He has placed you (family, job, neighborhood) and how He has shaped you (including personality and background.) What does boldness in conversations about Jesus look like for you with your Divine Platform?

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4 | In Acts 4, the believers prayed together for boldness. In Ephesians 6, Paul asks other believers to pray for him. We are meant to support each other in community while having the conversations that God has for us. Who can you gather with to pray for boldness? Who can you pray to have a conversation about Jesus with?

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## Northwest Bible Church's Vision

"By 2026, we will be having thousands of surprisingly easy-to-start conversations about Jesus all over our city because we are convinced, where God has us is where Jesus is."

### PRAY

We spent this week learning and praying about boldness in our conversations about Jesus. We cannot do this alone. We need our community of believers to pray with us and to encourage us. We depend on the Holy Spirit to bring opportunities and to give us words and boldness. Spend time journaling a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to bring you into conversations about Jesus. Use what we learned in Acts 4 as a guide.

- Praise God for who He is and what He has done.
- Thank Him for the gift of salvation and how Jesus has changed your life.
- Ask Him for boldness (courage) to have easy-to-start conversations about Jesus.
- Pray that you can naturally and authentically share what Jesus has done for you.

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8505 Douglas Ave | Dallas, Texas 75225 | [northwestbible.org](http://northwestbible.org)

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