



DIGGING DEEPER

Say It Like It Is

May 3rd, 2026

LEAN IN

- The religious leaders of Jesus' time were the ones who were supposed to be waiting for the Savior and living as God's representatives, but they missed the point and then missed Him. Instead uneducated, unschooled people were boldly proclaiming the arrival of the Savior and seeing God do miraculous things!

LOOK UP – Observation, Interpretation, Application (OIA)

Read Together: Acts 4:1-35

OBSERVATION – What Does the Text Say?

- What were they arrested for?
- What was the result of their preaching?
- What do you know about John and Peter?
- What do you know about the religious leaders?
- What observations do you make about the interaction between the apostles and the religious leaders?
- What observations do you make about what happens afterward?

INTERPRETATION – What Does the Passage Mean?

- What does the passage reveal about the kind of people God uses?
- What do you learn about what kind of things the Spirit empowers us for?
- Why does the church pray the way they do after this ordeal? What's the connection?
- What's the significance of the religious leaders pointing out that these are unschooled/uneducated men?

APPLICATION – What Does the Passage Mean?

- How do you typically respond when your beliefs are challenged or criticized?
- Peter stands up, speaks truth, and extends salvation - which one challenges you most?
- Do people recognize something different about you because you've "been with Jesus"? Why or why not?
- The believers shared everything in this passage—how open-handed are you with your time, resources, and possessions? In what ways could you grow?
- Peter speaks by a power not his own—what does it look like for you to rely on God rather than yourself?

REFLECT

- The religious leaders were more concerned with control than truth—where might you be tempted to prioritize comfort, image, or control over obedience?
- Where do you feel pressure to stay silent about your faith? What would it look like to take one step of boldness this week?
- In what ways does the prayer the church prayed after Peter and John's persecution challenge how you think about prayer? How could this shape your prayers this week?

Read Colossians 3:1-3

- If someone observed your life, would they clearly see that Jesus is central? What might need to change?

Read Acts 4: 8 & 31, Act 7:55–56, Luke 1:41 & 67

- We have the Holy Spirit when we choose to put our trust in Jesus. Being filled with the Holy Spirit comes as we empty ourselves of pride, rely on God, seek His Kingdom.. Where in your life do you need a filling of the Holy Spirit and what is getting in the way?

Scripture

Acts 4

Colossians 3:1-3

Acts 7:55-56

Luke 1:41 & 67

Prayer Guide for Groups:

Pray like the early church:

- 1.) Praise God for who He is:** What you know from scripture and experience
- 2.) Recognize your role in His redemptive story:** Where does he want to use you for His Kingdom work right where you are? Acknowledge what comes to mind and pray for clarity.
- 3.) Accept resistance as normal:** Where are you experiencing resistance in walking out your faith? Thank God that He is with you and pray for those places/ people of resistance
- 4.) Trust God overcomes evil plans:** remind your heart that you trust God by thanking Him for

what He has done in your life already and asking Him to keep moving.

5.) Ask for boldness and power to keep proclaiming Him: Ask God for what you need in order to boldly live for Him.

Practice (STEP OUT)

Personal: This week Live boldly like Peter and John

1.) At home — What could it look like to:

- Seek Jesus daily
- Love sacrificially
- Speaking boldly of Jesus

2.) At work — What could it look like to:

- Work with excellence (as working for the Lord (Colossians 3:23-24))
- Stay interruptible
- Speak boldly of Jesus

3.) At school — What could it look like to:

- Show kindness
- Welcome others
- Speak boldly of Jesus

4.) In your city — What could it look like to:

- Serve others
- Love neighbors
- Speak boldly of Jesus

Who are the people in each of those areas of your life that do not yet follow Jesus that you can begin praying for?

As a community

- How could we as a community serve the needs of those in our group, or in the surrounding area?
 - Look into what are the needs in our community/ group
 - What are the needs around us (neighborhood, school, homeless, single moms...)