



The Chapel
January 26, 2025
Dave Gustavsen

Week 4: Act with Courage
Scripture: Acts 4:1-31

1. OPEN IN PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

- Have a group member pray, invite the Holy Spirit to lead, and fill your time together.

2. GETTING STARTED: (10 MINUTES)

- Question: Share about a time you were courageous or you saw someone else do something courageous.

3. READ ACTS 4 TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)

- Ask one or two group members to read the passage aloud.

4. DISCUSS (30 MINUTES)

Understanding the Passage:

- Why were the religious leaders so upset with Peter and John's message in Acts 4:2? What stands out to you when you read their responses in verses 4:8-12 and 4:19-20? How did their courage inspire the prayers of other believers in 4:23-31?
- The apostles prayed for healings in Acts 4:30 and God answered their prayer in the next chapter. Scripture shows that healings weren't just about physical restoration – they confirmed God's power and the message of the one performing them. How does this shape your understanding of divine healing?
- The apostle's courage made them bold, which angered the Sadducees. Later in Acts 5:18, they had the apostles arrested, but God sent an angel to open the doors of the jail. Why do you think God chose this method to confront the Sadducees? What does this tell you about God's ways and His character?
- Pastor Dave said that courage comes from being filled with God's Spirit, fellowship with God's Son, and faith in God's sovereignty. Why are all three components essential for authentic courage?

Applying the Message:

- What part does courage play in making an effective church? How can you personally and/or as a small group demonstrate courage to help make your church more effective in its mission?
- Acts 4:12 says that salvation is found in no one other than Jesus. How do you respond (with grace and truth) when people say that it doesn't matter what religion you believe in as long as you are a good person?

- Acts 4:13 says that the people noticed Peter and John “had been with Jesus”. Has the courage of Christ “rubbed off on you?” How might spending more time with Jesus deepen your courage and impact the people around you?

5. LIVE IT OUT: “BE MY WITNESS THIS WEEK” (10 MINUTES)

- Identify **one area** in your life where you can act with courage for Jesus this week. This could include:
 - Sharing your faith with a coworker, friend, or family member.
 - Praying boldly for someone who is struggling or in need.
 - Standing firm in your faith or values in a challenging situation.
 - Speaking encouragement or truth when it feels uncomfortable.
- **Action Plan:** Write down who you feel God is calling you to impact and what bold step you can take. Pray specifically for courage and for the Holy Spirit to lead you.

6. CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

- Ask God to fill everyone with the same boldness and courage as seen in the disciples. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower each person to speak, act, and live in a way that points others to Jesus.
- Give the group a moment to silently ask God for courage in a specific area of their life this week (refer to the Live it Out section).