

LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

citygroups

Spring 2023

Week of February 19

Acts 4:1–31

Announcement:

- To the World Conference, March 3rd & 4th. RSVP @ citychurchtallahassee.com/totheworld

DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): Acts 4:1–31

Supporting Texts: Psalm 118:22

MAIN IDEA: We are to be bold in proclaiming the good news of Jesus in word and in action because we serve a risen Savior and salvation comes through no one nor nothing else.

OBSERVE

Read Acts 4:1–12. What miracle took place in chapter 3 before the preaching of Peter and John that upset the Jewish leaders?

- *The healing of the lame man in the Temple colonnade from Acts 3.*

Read Acts 4:13–22. What are some characteristics of Peter and John's testimony that point to it being the truth?

- Their boldness (vv. 13, 19–20)
- Evidence of being with Jesus (v. 13)
- Untrained/uneducated yet clear (v. 13)
- The lame man is now standing, healed (vv. 14, 22)

Read Acts 4:23–31. What did the people of God do when they saw the boldness of Peter and John? What resulted from their own actions in these verses?

- *They praised God and prayed for boldness of their own*
- *God granted them boldness by sending them His Holy Spirit*

INTERPRET

What does it mean that Jesus is the cornerstone that the builders rejected (v. 11)?

- *This is a quotation from Psalm 118, which is a Messianic Psalm (one that speaks of the coming "anointed one" who would rule over His enemies). In building, certain stones were tossed out that were considered flawed or useless. The very stone they considered as such, became the cornerstone, the most significant stone that held the most weight of a building where two walls come together. Jesus was rejected by the Jewish leaders as*

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insignificant or flawed yet He is the foundation for the salvation of the Jews (and of the entire world).

How do we navigate passages like Acts 4:12 and John 14:6 in the face of an inclusive culture?

- *The gospel is exclusive in that Jesus is the only way to salvation. It is inclusive in that it is available to people of every culture, language, location, etc.*
- *It was counter-cultural even in the first century but truth is not up for popular vote.*
- *Our culture likes to say it is inclusive until someone makes an exclusive claim...that claim is suddenly excluded!*

APPLY

What was so offensive about the message of Peter and John? What is offensive to our culture today when we share the gospel?

What does it look like to be bold today? What prevents us from being bold in our sharing the gospel?

How does this passage, which is focused on boldness, apply to the Let's Go initiative?

- *Boldness in sharing the gospel with lost people in Tallahassee*
- *Boldly going from our church, for the city, and to the world with the good news of Jesus*
- *Boldness in giving to expand our reach in Tallahassee and beyond*
 - *Live missionally*
 - *Make room for more people to hear the good news*