



the upside down series
week four: bold beyond belief

1. If you want to be bold you've got to be _____.
2. If you want to be bold you've got to be _____ by the _____.
3. If you want to be bold you've got to _____.
4. If you want to be bold you've got to be willing to _____.

The church is growing. God's people are changing. Sin is forsaken and God's ways are embraced. It's a great day to be a Christian. But not everyone agrees as Peter and John are about to find out.



day one: annoyed by the truth

We are well under way in the study of the Acts of the Apostles. Are you finding yourself hungry for God in His word? Pray for a greater hunger for God's word. Pray for greater understanding of what God is saying, and know that I am praying for you right now!

Read Acts 4:1-12

exploring the text

1. What were Peter and John doing when they faced opposition?

2. Why were the Sadducees and the priests annoyed?

3. What did the Sadducees do to Peter and John and what were they hoping to accomplish?

4. Despite the opposition, what was the result of the word of God spoken to hearers? How many people believed in vs.4?

interesting fact

5. Look at Matthew 26:57-64 and compare to Acts 4:6. Who was present in both stories? Why is that significant?

6. How does Peter respond to this question: “by what name did you do this?”

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit when he healed the lame man. He was filled with the Holy Spirit when he preached the word of God. He was filled with the Holy Spirit when he answered the high priests. God can do much through you when you are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Application for
your life?
Record your
thoughts here.

7. Read Matthew 21:42. Who had previously told these leaders about the stone rejected by the builders

8. What is the only name by which a man can be saved?

personal application

9. When has your faith in Jesus Christ been challenged by others?

10. How do you feel and how do you respond when your faith is challenged and criticized?



day two: bold enough to speak

Remember to start your time with the Lord in prayer. It doesn't have to be long. Simply ask God to reveal Himself to you through His word. Ask Him to point out any sin that needs to be confessed. Then be ready to receive what He teaches you.

Today read Acts 4:13-22.

exploring the text

1. In vs.13, how were Peter and John characterized?
2. What was so unusual about their boldness?
3. The text says “And they recognized that they had been with Jesus”. How did spending time with Jesus affect Peter and John?

4. Why couldn't the leaders accuse Peter and John publicly?

5. Why was a warning given to Peter and John? Why did Peter and John scare the rulers so much?

verse

Galatians 1:10

For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

6. How did Peter and John respond to that warning?

7. Peter and John make a decision as to their course of action in vs. 19-20. What is it?

8. Do you think the rulers were satisfied with the outcome?



day three: sovereign Lord

My prayer for you today is to be relieved of anything that is distracting you from your time with the Lord. Whenever you open up the Word of God you have the opportunity to hear directly from your Father. There is nothing of greater importance in life.

Our reading today is Acts 4:23

exploring the text

1. How did Peter and John respond to the threats they received by the rulers and high priests?
2. What did the believers do as soon as they heard the report of Peter and John?
3. The words “Sovereign Lord” are used in vs. 24. What does that mean? Look up the word sovereign in a dictionary.

4. List the elements of the prayer of the believers in vs. 24-30.

5. Why did the believers quote the Old Testament? How does that help us in learning how to pray?

6. In vs. 27, the believers show that they do understand who the attack was against. Write down who the true person that the priests were out to destroy.

7. Let's talk about predestination as mentioned in vs. 28. How does that relate to God being "Sovereign Lord"?

8. What happened after the believers prayed in vs. 31?

interesting fact

The church needs men and women who will stand by the colors, and not by their silence deny their Master, stealing away from the fight like cowards.

Application for your life?
Record your thoughts here.

personal application

9. How can you model your prayers after the prayer of the believers? Write down specific elements you can integrate.

10. Read Romans 8:29. What has God predestined for you to do?

A vertical rectangular box with rounded corners, a light green background, and a green border. The box contains 28 horizontal green lines for writing, positioned below the introductory text.



day four: no more need

We are talking about boldness this week. Think about your life. Are you living boldly?

Now read Acts 4:32-37.

exploring the text

1. The early Christians were characterized by one main quality. What is it?
2. How did the believers' unity affect their material possessions?
3. What did God provide to the apostles who were sharing the gospel?
4. Why does it say in vs. 34 that "there was not a needy person among them"?

interesting fact

All things in common - when people in the church had needs, those who could help did so by giving money or possessions to the apostles for distribution.

5. Who were the folks who helped the needy?

6. How were resources distributed?

7. Who is Barnabas? Describe as much about him as you can. What did he do?

personal application

8. How would the church look like today if we acted the same way the early church did?



day five: not my own

Today is a review day. Read Acts 4. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you something you haven't seen before.

personal application

1. What were some big themes we learned about this week?
2. List 2-3 main points the Holy Spirit taught you this week.
3. Write down the greatest lesson God is teaching you since you started the study of Acts.
4. Think about the circumstances in your life. What is the Lord trying to change in you through your circumstances?

5. How has your life turned upside down since Jesus came into your heart?
6. How is your life turning upside down since you started studying the book of Acts?
7. Boldness, God's will, God's renown, signs, wonders, the spread of the gospel...these are the kinds of things the early believers prayed for. What kinds of things are you praying for?

prayer

Write a letter to God. Tell him about areas in your life and witness where you are stretched, criticized or challenged. Tell him where you need his strength and grace. Write specifically how you would like for your words and life to proclaim Jesus, raised from the dead. Ask him to make you a person of courage, proclaiming Jesus.