

Small Group Guide

Week of August 17, 2025



Icebreaker



- Have you ever had a “bathroom mirror” pep talk moment? How did it turn out?
- What’s one silly thing you’ve done just to avoid feeling uncomfortable?



Discussion Questions



- In Acts 4:1–7, Peter and John face serious opposition. How do you typically respond when your faith is challenged?
- The sermon said, “Boldness in the mirror isn’t the same as boldness in the moment.” Where do you find that most true in your own life?
- When have you experienced pushback right after a spiritual breakthrough?
- Why do you think God sometimes allows opposition immediately after a move of His Spirit?
- What does “standing firm” look like in your workplace, family, or friend circle?
- The message talked about not putting God in a “Sunday box.” What are ways you can invite Him into your weekday routines?
- How do you tend to react when God moves in ways you didn’t expect or plan for?
- Peter had previously denied Jesus but now stood with boldness. How have you seen God transform your courage over time?
- Verse 13 says the leaders “took note that these men had been with Jesus.” What habits or rhythms help people recognize you’ve been with Him?
- Why do you think the name of Jesus specifically stirs opposition compared to general talk about God or faith?
- What fears or risks most often keep you from “speaking Jesus” in daily life?



Thought for the Group



In Acts 4, Peter and John are living in the overflow of a miraculous moment—a man crippled for forty years has been healed in Jesus' name. But instead of applause, they're met with resistance. The religious leaders arrest them, not for doing good, but for boldly proclaiming that Jesus is the source of healing and salvation. This moment reminds us that when God moves, pushback is often right around the corner. The enemy will try to discourage, distract, or intimidate us, because he knows God's power changes lives.

Peter and John's example shows us that standing firm in our faith isn't about being naturally fearless—it's about being Spirit-filled. The same Peter who once denied Jesus to a servant girl now speaks boldly before the very council that condemned Jesus to death. What changed? Acts 4:8 tells us—Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. That same Spirit is available to every believer today, empowering us to be witnesses for Jesus even when it's uncomfortable or costly.

Standing firm and speaking Jesus is not about personal glory—it's about making Him known so that others can find the hope, healing, and salvation we've found in Him.



Next Steps



- Identify one area this week where your faith might face pushback, at work, in your family, or in a conversation with friends, and make a prayerful decision now to respond with conviction rather than retreat.
- Intentionally step outside your "Sunday box" by saying yes to a Spirit-prompted opportunity, even if it interrupts your schedule or pushes you out of your comfort zone. Trust that God's timing is better than yours
- Look for a natural, Spirit-led opportunity to clearly name Jesus as the reason behind your hope, kindness, or actions. Don't settle for vague references to faith—honor Him by speaking His name.