

Small Group Guide

Week of August 24, 2025



Icebreaker



- Have you ever been in a bathroom emergency on a road trip? Tell the story!
- Which movie character do you think handles pressure best—and why?



Discussion Questions



- How do you usually respond when pressure builds in your life?
- Peter and John went “to their people” instead of isolating when faced with threats. Who are “your people” right now, and how have they supported you?
- Why do you think we naturally tend to isolate instead of leaning on community when we feel pressure?
- Have you ever seen a blessing in your life turn into a burden because you tried to handle it alone?
- What’s one step you could take to strengthen your sense of spiritual community right now?
- The early church responded to pressure by praying bold prayers, not making escape plans. How does your prayer life usually look when you feel pressure?
- In Acts 4, the believers start their prayer by declaring, “Sovereign Lord.” How might your outlook shift if you began your prayers by focusing on God’s authority rather than your problem?
- The sermon challenged us to pray big, bold prayers instead of safe ones. What’s one bold prayer you’ve been hesitant to pray?
- How does remembering God’s past faithfulness (like the disciples did by quoting Psalm 2) help you face current pressures?
- “Pressure doesn’t paralyze you; it propels you.” Can you think of a time when a season of pressure actually fueled your spiritual growth?



Thought for the Group



Pressure is unavoidable—but it's also revealing. Pressure pushes us somewhere. It can push us toward isolation, fear, and self-reliance, or it can push us toward God, community, and bold faith.

In Acts 4, Peter and John faced intense pressure after being arrested and threatened for preaching about Jesus. Instead of hiding, they went to their people, prayed to their God, and received power from the Holy Spirit. The pressure that could have paralyzed them actually propelled them to speak God's Word with greater boldness.

The early church shows us three powerful priorities when life feels heavy:

Prioritize community — Don't process pressure alone. We need the right people who remind us of truth and fuel our faith.

Prioritize prayer — Bring your pressures to God first. Start with who He is, Sovereign Lord, before focusing on what's wrong.

Prioritize boldness — Don't just pray for escape; pray for courage to stand firm and live faithfully right where you are.

When we respond to pressure the way the early church did, we experience God's peace, His power, and a fresh boldness to live out our faith. Pressure doesn't have to crush us—it can become the fuel that lifts us higher when we let God work through it.



Next Steps



- Stop starting with the pressure and start with God's power. Each day this week, spend a few minutes praying bold prayers over your situation — declaring, "Sovereign Lord, You're in control." Ask Him not just to change your circumstances, but to give you courage and strength in the middle of them.
- Identify one area where you've been playing it safe because of fear or uncertainty. This week, take one step of bold faith — whether it's sharing your story, inviting someone to church, standing firm in your values, or offering to pray for someone. Trust that God will meet you there and give you what you need