

# Small Group Guide

We Pray Bold Prayers — Acts 4:23–31

## Purpose

To help our groups:

- Learn from the early church's prayer
- Grow in courage and dependence on God
- Practice praying **together**, out loud, with Scripture shaping our prayers

## 1. Opening Questions

- When you hear the phrase “*bold prayer*,” what comes to mind?
- Is bold prayer something you feel comfortable with—or cautious about? Why?

*Leader note:* Keep this light. This sets the tone without pressure.

## 2. Read the Text Together

Read **Acts 4:23–31** aloud.

If possible, have **multiple people read** different sections.

### Observation Question

- What stands out to you in this prayer?  
(Words, tone, requests, or what's missing)

## 3. Understanding the Prayer

### Discussion Questions

1. When Peter and John are threatened, where do they go first—and why does that matter?
2. What do they spend *more time* praying about:
  - o Their circumstances
  - o Or their confidence in God?
3. What do you notice about what they **do not** ask for?

## Key Insight for Groups

The church doesn't pray for safety or escape—but for **boldness to keep going**.

## 4. Prayer Practice #1: Remembering Who God Is

The early church begins by focusing on **God's sovereignty**, not their fear.

### Practice: *Adoration Prayer*

- Go around the circle. You can go around several times if you feel like the prayer is going well
- Each person prays **one short sentence**, beginning with:
  - “God, you are...”
  - or “Lord, we praise you because...”

Examples:

- “God, you are sovereign over every situation.”
- “Lord, you are faithful even when we are afraid.”

*Leader tip:* Encourage brevity. This lowers anxiety and builds participation.

## 5. Bringing Our Reality to God

### Discussion Question

- Where do you feel pressure, fear, or resistance right now because of your faith?

Allow a few people to share—but don't force everyone.

## 6. Prayer Practice #2: Asking for Boldness

### Practice: *Scripture-Shaped Prayer*

Read Acts 4:29 aloud again:

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness...”

Then pray together using this pattern:

- One person prays:  
“Lord, you see \_\_\_\_.”

- Another prays:  
“Give us boldness to \_\_\_\_.”
- Another prays:  
“Stretch out your hand to \_\_\_\_.”

This can continue organically or around the circle.

*Leader note:* This keeps prayers focused and prevents them from drifting into long explanations.

## 7. Expecting God to Work

### Discussion Question

- Verse 31 says the place was shaken and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.  
What does it look like for *us* to expect God to move—even if it doesn’t look dramatic?

## 8. Prayer Practice #3: Listening Prayer

### Practice: *Silent Surrender*

- Sit in silence for 1–2 minutes.
- Invite God to speak, prompt, or encourage.
- After silence, anyone who feels led may share a word, Scripture, or encouragement.

*Leader reminder:* No pressure. Silence itself is an act of trust.

## 9. Closing Prayer

Have one person close by praying:

- For boldness this wee
- For sensitivity to the Spirit
- For obedience when opportunities arise

### Take-Home Practice

This week:

- Pray Acts 4:29 once a day.
- Ask God one simple question each morning:  
**“Where do you want me to be bold today?”**

