

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:
 - Their circumstances
 - 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 week
- 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?**”

