

Looking for  
helpful  
resources as  
you study  
Acts?



Bible Project



Free Commentary



Free Crossway Study

### LET'S CHECK IN:

1. Briefly share: over the last week, what's one way you've noticed God working in your life? Or in the lives of others? In your community? In the world? Or share something that happened in the last week you are grateful for!

### LET'S GET STARTED:

2. Briefly share: The setting of Acts 3-4 takes place in an environment conflict. Why is it hard to understand the origin and causes of major conflicts around the world between nations, people groups, etc?

### LET'S DIVE IN:

3. First, read together Acts 4:1-31. Think back to the sermon. Was there an idea that spoke to you, or was there anything said that challenged, intrigued or confused you that you want to explore more? Listen to each other, but don't feel the need to answer a person's question.
4. Describe why the conflict is beginning to build from chapter 3 into 7 between the Jewish leaders and the Jesus movement. Why does the religious establishment and leaders feel threatened by the disciples' actions? (Consider the five pillars of Judaism: monotheism, election, the Torah/Law, Territory (land), and the Temple).
5. Acts 4:8-12 records Peter's third speech in three chapters, this time before the Jewish rulers and elders. As before, Peter emphasizes the resurrection of Jesus, but this marks the first time the

apostles experience overt opposition to the gospel from authorities. How do Peter and John respond (v. 19-20)? What do they say is their motivation for witness? What can we learn from their response and how to make application in our lives?

6. After the elders try to silence the apostles, the disciples pray for boldness to speak God's word (Acts 4:24-30) In light of the threats from the established powers, it would be understandable for the believers to pray for relief from persecution. Instead, they ask for renewed courage to proclaim the word of God. From where are they drawing such confidence? Why do we need boldness in our lives as we seek to be ambassadors for Jesus? How can you rely on and pray more to be "filled with the Spirit" in your life? If you've experienced this before, describe what this was like.
  
7. The disciple's prayer (4:23-31) reveals how they understood the opposition and persecution. Read Psalm 2, which is the passage referenced in their prayer (4:26). What does this teach us about God's sovereignty and providence? How does this knowledge of God allow them to face opposition with boldness and confidence rather than caving in and becoming discouraged? How can your view of God alter the way you face a challenges, setback, or trial?

### **LET'S TAKE A NEXT STEP:**

8. In light of this study, share and write down one next action step you feel God is leading you to take in the next week? End by praying as a group for our church to have a united and shared life around these characteristics.

*(Consider areas: a temptation to avoid? Promise to claim? Example to follow? Command to obey? Person to move toward? A new discipline to develop that will help you love God with your heart, soul, mind, strength and to love others?)*