

Acts 4:1-31

June 29, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Biscuit vs. Donuts

1. Introduce the game: Tell students that you will be debating which is better: biscuits or donuts. (Feel free to tweak the items being debated to better resonate with your group—keep it lighthearted.)

2. Form teams: Ask students to choose their favorite breakfast item—biscuits or donuts—and then form two teams based on their choices.

3. Make a case: Give each team ten minutes to brainstorm and prepare arguments about why their chosen item is the best breakfast choice.

4. Present arguments: When the time is up, one student from each team should stand up and deliver the team's argument.

5. Pick a winner: After the presentations, the youth leaders will decide which team's argument was the most convincing and announce the winner.

Teaching Moment: Today, we debated what was better: biscuits or donuts. You guys were bold, and you stuck to your argument, even though not everyone agreed with you. In our Bible passage today, we are going to read how Peter

and John stuck to their beliefs about a much more serious topic than biscuits versus donuts—the gospel.

What have you been learning in our study of Acts so far?

What do you remember that happened in Acts 3?

DISCUSSION

 **ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 4:1-31.**

What happened to Peter and John in this passage? Why?

What was the result of Peter's sermon from our passage last week (v.4)?

What can we learn about God from this passage?

What stands out to you in this passage?

What stand did the disciples take in verses 19 and 20?

What did the religious leaders notice about the way that Peter and John shared the gospel?

What does that tell us about how the Holy Spirit can work in our lives?

What did Peter and John do after the trial?

Why does their next step seem unexpected? How did that step show their growing faith?

What did they specifically ask for in their prayer? How did God answer?

GOING DEEPER

What types of risks do we take when we share the gospel in our communities?

Consider the believers' prayer in Acts 4:24-30. Have you ever prayed for anything like this? What happened?

APPLICATION

What risks are holding you back from sharing the gospel?

What are some simple ways we can begin to share the Word of God boldly, like the believers in this passage?

What can we learn about God from what we studied today?

PRAYER

Praise God for always being on the throne and having a plan. Thank Him for helping us and walking with us when we are struggling. Ask Him to give your group boldness as you go out into the community and share the gospel.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.

July 6, 2025 --- Acts 4:32-5:11

COMMENTARY

Acts 4:1-31

Arrested and Interrogated (4:1–12). The Sadducees and the temple guard halted Peter's speech, but not before he had evoked a considerable response. It is not altogether clear why Peter and John were arrested. The Sadducees represented the aristocracy who had made peace with the Romans. Perhaps they were worried that Peter's messianic message might lead to a popular movement against the Romans that would bring reprisals. The two were held overnight and brought next morning before the Jewish high court, the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin consisted of seventy members. The majority of these were Sadducees, mostly from high priestly families. The high priest himself was presiding officer. A minority of the members were Pharisees. They were popular with the people, and their opinion carried considerable weight. The inquiry centered on the question of credentials. By what authority ("in what name") had Peter healed the lame man? Peter responded with a sermon on the concept of "name," which witnessed to the name of Jesus, the Messiah, the "stone rejected by its builders." Inspired by the Spirit, Peter even had the courage to accuse the Sanhedrin's members for their role in Jesus' death. He ended with an implicit

appeal for the high court to commit to Jesus, the only “name” in whom salvation is to be found.

Warned and Released (4:13–22). The members of the Sanhedrin were in a quandary. The apostles were popular with the people for healing the man, and the Sanhedrin could not deny the clear evidence of the healing. On the other hand, they wanted the messianic preaching to stop. Their solution was to issue a formal ban on the Christian message. This would establish legal responsibility should the apostles continue preaching Christ. Peter told them what to expect: How could he not continue to testify to the power of God he had seen at work in Christ?

Prayer of the Community (4:23–31). The rest of the Christian community undoubtedly had been in prayer for the two apostles during their trial. With their release and return, they now offered a prayer of thanksgiving. They thanked God for delivering His own in times of trial. When the rulers gathered against Christ, God delivered Him. Just now the two apostles had been delivered from the same authorities. They did more than express their thanks, however. They prayed that God would fill them with power to continue their witness even more boldly despite the rulers’ threats. God immediately answered their prayer. They received a renewed sense of the Spirit’s power, a new boldness for witness.