

A *rise* Ω

transforming our city

LIFE
GROUPS
WEEK 9 • MAR 9

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

What is an example of an ironic event that you have experienced?

BACKGROUND

Our Lord demonstrated His ability to bring something to be, despite this world's opposing efforts. This is evident in a couple of ways within Acts 4:23-31.

Peter and John had returned to their own people from their imprisonment by the Jewish leaders. They were not saddened or scared of what would come; instead, they . . . *raised their voices together in prayer to God* (v. 24). They prayed Psalms 2:1-2 which was David stating the fact that nations and rulers oppose the Lord and what he is trying to do.

Per Acts 4:27, such rulers included Herod, Pontius Pilate, the Gentiles and the people of Israel to work against what the Lord was doing with Jesus and His disciples - preaching the goodness that Jesus Christ is the way.

Rather than shying away due to the rulers' threats, they prayed for boldness and power in speaking the word of God, laying on of hands for healing, and to perform miracles all in the name of Jesus. Similar to Pentecost, *after they prayed, the meeting space shook and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking the word of God boldly* (Acts 4:31).

Despite our world in the past, today and into the future, we have our God working to the good of His people and that can take many forms, such as opposing actions of others that end up delivering God's very intention.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?

**KEY VERSES:** Acts 4:29

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

READ: Acts 4:23-31

**HEAD LEVEL:** *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*


1. In verse 23, What did Peter and John do after they were released from prison?
2. In verse 24, how did the Christians respond? What did they start out acknowledging?
3. How did their quote of Psalm 2:1-2 align with what they were experiencing?

DIGGING DEEPER

- In verses 29-30, what did the Christians seek prayer for?
See also Ephesians 6:19-20; Hebrews 4:16; Acts 4:29-31.
How did God answer their prayer?

**HEART LEVEL:** *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. Why did Peter and John say they could not stop speaking of Him? In Jeremiah 20:7-9, like Peter and John, why was Jeremiah compelled to continue speaking?
2. Why do you believe it was important for the Christians to acknowledge God in verse 24? Do you see a similarity with the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9-13?
3. With ruler's and nation's opposition against God's intent throughout history, how do you explain how their efforts are used to God's glory and purpose?

 **HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. When faced with opposition, what does it look like to pray this same prayer - to ask for boldness?
2. How can you create the space or environment where you can seek out boldness?
3. In what ways has the Spirit of God, like Peter, John and Jeremiah, compelled you to boldly speak about your faith? Did it surprise you? What happened?

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 4:31

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)