LIVING AN AUTHENTIC LIFE

Courageous Witness
Acts 4.23-31

BIG IDEA - An authentic disciple depends on God's power to do what doesn't come naturally.

1. After Peter and John were released, they returned to their friends and shared what had happened (v23–24). What did the believers do in response? What does their response teach us about facing challenges together as followers of Jesus?

2. The believers began their prayer by acknowledging God as Creator and recognizing His sovereignty over the nations (v24–28). How might trusting that God is sovereign change the way we respond to opposition, fear, or uncertainty?

3. The believers prayed for boldness rather than for the threats to disappear (v29). What does this reveal about their commitment to God's mission? How might our prayers be different if our greatest concern were faithfulness to God's mission rather than our own comfort?

4. Sunday morning worship is important, but what are some differences between attending church, participating in Christian community, and being deeply connected to other believers? What does meaningful connection look like in your life right now? What makes it difficult for us to develop that kind of deeper connection?

5. Consider this progression: trusting God's sovereignty leads us to trust His love for us, and trusting His love captures our hearts for His mission in the world. Which part of that progression is most meaningful or challenging for you? Why?

6. The believers asked God to enable them to speak His word boldly, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit (v29-31). What is the relationship between prayer, the Holy Spirit, and courageous witness in this passage?

7. Read Ephesians 6:12. How does understanding that our struggle is not ultimately against flesh and blood change the way we think about sharing our faith with people who disagree with us or seem resistant to the gospel?

8. Some people are naturally outgoing and others are shy or hesitant. Why is courage in following Jesus different from simply working up the nerve to do something difficult? Where might God be calling you to depend on His power to do something that doesn't come naturally to you?

9. Who is one person God may be prompting you to introduce to Jesus or help take a next step in following Him? What is one practical step you could take this week, and how can this Group pray for and encourage you?

10. Spend some time praying for deeper connections within our church, for hearts to be increasingly captured by God's mission, and for the Holy Spirit's empowerment to speak and live faithfully.