

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Side by Side

Week 3: Sharing Life
Acts 4:23-31

Week of January 23, 2022
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

God made us to live connected in relationships, through community. This week as we study Acts, we see how the church can help believers to share their hearts while experiencing life together.

Kicking it off:

Jeff shared about his small group taking a short trip to Colorado. So, *Yes or No* — would you ever try doing a high-ropes suspension bridge? How about if it's 600 feet above a rocky cavern?

Discussion:

1. Think about a time when you've opened up and shared part of what was truly going on in your life. What led to that? What did the other person do to help you feel safe enough to share from the heart?
2. Jeff mentioned four levels of sharing in groups: *Experience, Reflection, Struggle, and Failure*. Why do you think being authentic and sharing our "failures" helps people connect in more meaningful ways?
3. Read Acts 4:13. What does this verse teach us about Peter and John, and the power of spending time with Jesus and each other? How have you seen similar changes in your life (or another believer's)?

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."

4. Read Acts 4:24. How can group prayer & perspective for our situation help us better face our problems?

"When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. 'Sovereign Lord,' they said, 'you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.'"

5. Read Acts 4:25. Why is it so important to seek wisdom from God's Word, even through other people offering spiritual insights?

"You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?'"

6. Read Acts 4:31. What's at stake if everyone in your group were to be filled with the Holy Spirit and speak God's Word boldly? What potential great things might God do in and through you?

"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."

Wrapping It Up:

It's worth noting that in the believers' prayer in Acts 4:24-30, they praised God and talked to Him about their problems, without necessarily asking God to take away the issues entirely. Pray for God to help you in your upcoming weeks to be bold and confidently deal with your problems with courage and strength.