

Bold Prayers to Be Bold Witnesses (9/24/23)

Main Verses: Acts 4:23-31

Key Verse: Acts 4:31

Takeaway: As we participate in Christ's "work of ministry", we should pray bold prayers to be bold witnesses for him among those who are lost.

Getting Started: Have you ever really wanted something but didn't ask for it?

READ: Acts 4:23-31 (or have older kids help read)

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What were Peter and John "released" from? What were they told to stop doing?
- How do they respond to these threats?
- What do they ask God for in verses 29-30? How does God respond (v 31)?
- Should we be concerned when we talk to others about Jesus?

Elementary:

- What were Peter and John "released" from? What were they told to stop doing?
- How do they respond to these threats? Were they concerned about them?
- What do they ask God for in verses 29-30? How does God respond (v 31)?
- What does this teach us about how we should pray for boldness as we share Christ with others?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- Peter and John's being threatened (persecuted) was a fulfillment of Ps. 2:1-2. Everything God says will happen, happens.
- The believers praised God for what had happened, and then prayed for boldness, that they would be faithful to speak about Jesus and obey God.
- Like them, we should be more concerned about what God says and tells us to do than what people say and do.
- If we have faith in Jesus, we can (and should) pray bold prayers that we would also share about him, and all people might come to know God through faith in Jesus.

Elementary:

- Peter and John's being threatened (persecuted) was a fulfillment of Ps. 2:1-2. Everything God says will happen, happens.
- The believers praised God for what had happened, and then prayed for boldness, that they would be faithful to speak about Jesus and obey God.
- Like them, we should be more concerned about what **God** says and tells us to do than what **people** say and do.
- We can (and should) pray bold prayers that we would also share about him, and all people might come to know God through faith in Jesus. We can only do this if we have surrendered our hearts and lives to God's loving leadership.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK): Talk to God, and thank him that we can pray bold prayers to him. Ask God to help you grow in your faith in Jesus and to help you to learn more about him. Ask God how you can share his message and his love with those around you.

(Elementary): Talk to God, thanking him that through faith in Jesus, we can pray bold prayers. Thank God that we have the opportunity to share him with other people that they might come to know him through faith in Jesus. This is only possible if your heart and life are surrendered to God's loving leadership. Take a moment to reflect on whether you have surrendered to him. If you haven't, you might pray along these lines: **Admit** you are guilty of living a me-centered life instead of a God-centered one. **Believe** that Jesus is your only hope for forgiveness, freedom, and forever with God. With your whole heart and being, **commit** yourself to following Jesus' loving leadership. If you pray this, or have questions about what it means, talk to a trusted adult in your life about it.

