

## Embolden

### To Stand Up for Truth

May 31, 2020 / Jeff Gunn

**Every Christ-follower can stand up for \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>1</sup> The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. <sup>2</sup> They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. <sup>3</sup> They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. <sup>4</sup> But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. <sup>5</sup> The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. <sup>7</sup> They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" **Acts 4:1-7, NIV**

**1. By putting \_\_\_\_\_ in perspective.**

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." <sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." **Acts 4:8-12, NIV**

**1. By understanding the \_\_\_\_\_ of our mission.**

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. <sup>15</sup> So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. <sup>16</sup> "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. <sup>17</sup> But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name." **Acts 4:13-17, NIV**

**2. By viewing our \_\_\_\_\_ as room for God's strength.**

<sup>18</sup> Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." <sup>21</sup> After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. <sup>22</sup> For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old. **Acts 4:18-22, NIV**

**3. By knowing what it is to "\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.**

## MEMORY VERSE

<sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. **Acts 4:20, NIV**

**My next step:** I will trust that the Holy Spirit will give me the boldness and courage to stand up for truth.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your communication card.

# Impact Group Questions

## Embolden – To Stand Up for Truth

**Getting Started:** Is there one specific thing you have done to help with emotional health in the past 2 months? What is it?

### Going Back to Sunday

Each week we will start with the question, “**What about the message from Sunday had the most meaning or made the biggest impact on you?**” Another question is “**How did this message help me appreciate Jesus at the Hero of my life?**” Take time to consider these questions as you listen to each message. Bring your sermon notes to class each week to help you remember and share with the group.

## Emboldened to Stand Up for the Truth

### Read: Acts 2:1-12

In the course of about 2 months Peter and John went from a place of fear (hiding in an upper room) to a place of boldness (preaching in the temple courts).

How did the Holy Spirit use the *truth* to embolden the disciples to see the earthly leaders with proper perspective?

In verse 12 God tells us, “*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*” Earlier we asked how this portion of God’s Word shows Jesus as the Hero of my life. How does this verse answer that question?

What does this verse teach us about the unique nature of our mission as Christ followers?

### Read: Acts 2:14-17

How does thinking of your weakness as room for God’s strength change your perspective on the issues you face?

### My Next Step:

Identify one area of your life where your weakness is painfully obvious to you. How can you use the truth of God’s Word to make this weakness in your life a strength by the power of the Holy Spirit?

### Doing Life Together:

Right now there is an immense amount of anger and frustration in Minneapolis over the death of George Floyd while in police custody. How does the truth of God’s Word help us to acknowledge, discuss and bring healing to situations like this?

### Prayer:

In the prayer section we encourage you to take about 10 minutes to pray as a group. Include the issues of prayer and praise from above. Set aside about 10 minutes so it doesn’t feel rushed. Go around in a circle with each person praying, a person may say, “pass” if they are uncomfortable praying out loud.

### Friendship:

Spend the final 10 to 15 minutes of group catching up with other group members. Take time to get to know those you don’t know quite as well. Make sure to include everyone in the group.

### Reminders:

For the most current CrossWalk information go to [www.cwlc.church](http://www.cwlc.church) and click on the news tab. At this site you can also get more information about outreach opportunities to serve at a blood drive, food bank, and school supplies drive.

Remember that CrossWalk is on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.