

Acts 4:1-22

A clear decision to make: Obey God or man?

Decisions leading to this decision.

Decision be with Jesus

Q: where does power, healing and salvation come from?

- Decision: Name of Jesus.
- Decision: Be filled with the Holy Spirit
- Decision: Before the Decision: Obey

Reality check in to this point in Acts:

1. Do I believe that Jesus was who he says he was?
2. Did He do the miraculous works of God recorded in the Gospels?
3. Do I accept that what He did as Jesus of Nazareth he continued to do through the Apostles and the early Church?
4. Is Jesus ready and willing to do the same today in this new chapter of Acts being written in our time?
5. Am I open to the possibility that this can be a time of miracles if we dare to believe and pray with hope filled reckless abandon in Jesus' Name?
6. What is it in me that has played havoc with my boldness and the blandness of expecting little and settling for it?

Many of our Life Groups use this insert as a discussion guide throughout the week. We encourage you to take that next step in your journey with Jesus & His church by joining one today! <https://rlc.pub/groups>

Looking back over what Jeff talked about on Sunday, was there something you'd like to share?

What is one thing you would like to thank the Lord for that you were able to experience this past week?

Connect to God's story

Take a moment to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion as you read the Scriptures together.

Read Acts 4:1-7.

Why do you think the early church grew so quickly? Why did imprisoning Peter and John stifle the spread of the Good News about Jesus Christ?

Why were the religious leaders annoyed with Peter and John? What threat did Peter and John pose to them? Have you ever experienced anything similar because of your faith? If so, what happened?

Why did the religious leaders ask by what power or name did they do this miracle? Do you think they realized they were losing control?

Read Luke 22:54-62 & Acts 4:8-12.

These are things Peter said eight weeks apart and Peter's response to these situations are very different. What changed? Has the power of the Holy Spirit changed you and how you respond to people? If so, how?

Peter ends his message about salvation being found by no one else and by no other name than Jesus Christ of Nazareth. What is so controversial about what he said to these religious leaders? How do you think this statement would be accepted in our culture? Do you believe what Peter said? What challenges you the most about what you've read so far?

Read Acts 4:13-22.

Imagine being one of the religious leaders that recognize the truth in what Peter said. What would you do? Have you ever been in a situation where you disagreed with the group but felt powerless to change the group's opinion? What can you take away from Peter's boldness?

What was the solution the leaders came up with to keep this from getting out of control? What was Peter and John's response to them?

As you pray for each other, share with the group the one person you are praying for to invite to Easter on April 5th.

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful relationships with Jesus and each other through the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25).

Here's how we accomplish this in our community throughout the week:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life by following Jesus.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Throughout the Life Group session, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways the Father has designed you to serve and make a difference in His kingdom as He conforms you to the image of His Son! (Romans 8:28-30)