

THE BOOK OF ACTS

A CROSSPOINT CITY SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 11: Believers, Bibles, Backbones, and Broken Hearts

SERIES OVERVIEW

The book of Acts tells the story of the gospel advancing from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. As we walk through this missional narrative together, our prayer is that God would breathe fresh wind into our sails—motivating and inspiring us to join Him in the work He’s still doing today.

[Book of Acts Video Overview](#)

CONTEXT

(Acts 4:13-22) After being released, Peter and John returned to their community and reported what had happened. The believers then prayed for boldness to continue speaking God's word, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit, empowering them to speak with courage.

THE BIG IDEA

What’s the key to standing strong in the face of opposition? We need Bibles, backbones, and broken hearts.



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SCRIPTURE: Acts 4:23-31

23 When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven & the earth & the sea & everything in them, 25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, “‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’—27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. 29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

ICE BREAKER

Play a game of “High-Low”. Each person shares a “High” or good thing that is going well in their life and a “Low” or something that is not going so well. If you have a large group, have people pair up and share.

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

GROUP DISCUSSION

(Refer to **Week 11** of your ACTS Journal.)

Read Acts 4:23-31 as a group.

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

The sermon gives us 3 things we need to face opposition to our faith; Bible, Backbone and Broken Heart. What do you do when you face opposition in your life and faith? Be honest!

In verse 24, Luke calls God "Sovereign Lord". What does it mean for God to be sovereign over all things? How does knowing God through His Word help us combat the times when we **feel** like God is unable to do anything about the brokenness in the world?

In order to stand strong in the face of opposition, we must ask the Holy Spirit for courage and boldness (ie. backbone.) According to Revelation 21:8, what is the status of cowards in the Kingdom of God?

Read verse 29. The Greek word for boldness is *Parresia* which means, "Spirit inspired courage to speak in spite of danger or threat". How is their prayer in vs. 29 different from your prayers for those who oppose you?

What can we learn from this passage and Jesus about how to pray for and share the truth of the Gospel in love with our enemies?

What does Pastor James mean when he says we need Broken Hearts to stand against our opposition?

Discussion continued: Why is it hard for you to see your enemies as an image bearer of God?

In verse 30, their broken hearts for their enemies are revealed as they ask God to stretch out His hand to heal. Remember, people in need of spiritual healing are not the enemy, but they have been captured by the enemy. How does this change our prayers and our posture towards those who oppose us as a person and follower of Jesus?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests.

Closing Prayer (together as a group)

God, we believe you are Creator and in control of all things. We pray that you will have your way in our lives and in the world. God, break our hearts for what breaks yours and soften our hearts towards those who oppose you and your people. Holy Spirit give us the courage we need to proclaim Jesus to those who oppose us and are in need of your grace, truth and goodness. In Jesus name, Amen.



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