

Acts 4:23-37

Church: Great people, not such great coffee!

Warm Up

What is your favourite piece of music/song? Why? How about art? What about place to visit? Share with your group. Explain why you think it is "great."

Background and context

Peter and John have just spent the night in prison for preaching about Jesus. Now they stand before the authorities being threatened by them, and being warned not to speak of Jesus again. They refuse to comply. Instead they preach Jesus to those who are threatening them. Unsettled by the boldness of Peter and John, the authorities release them for fear of public reprisals.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Acts 4:23-37. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. How does the gathered Church respond to Peter and John's experience of persecution?
2. How does this reflect the way you think **you** would respond?
3. v24-30. How does their prayer reflect their beliefs?
4. v29-30. What is surprising about how the Church ask God to "deal" with the threats against them? Is that what we might ask?
5. In what way was the Church's faith great?
6. How does God respond to their prayer?
7. Apart from Pentecost and this instance, where else do we see the Holy Spirit poured out in Acts of the Apostles? Why do you think God keeps pouring out His Spirit?
8. How does the Holy Spirit interact with you? Share the ways you have experienced the power of God?
9. v32-37. Does this description of the way the Church lived fill you with excitement or dread? Why?

Discipleship and Application



10. The early Church had great faith, great power and great generosity. Is this reflected in your personal walk with Jesus and in the Church today?
11. What can you do to help the Church become great? What role can you play?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.