

## ACTS 4

# BOLDNESS

### Warm-Up Questions:

- ▶ Share a time when you felt some form of persecution or opposition because you are a Christian. How did it make you feel?

**READ: Acts 4:1-31**

### I. What is BOLDNESS?

- ▶ Read the definition of boldness to the right. How do you see boldness through their example and teaching through this passage?
- ▶ Discuss from the passage how Peter and John were experiencing both *popularity* (2:47; 4:4, 22) and *persecution*. The quote by Tim Keller pointed out how this is a pattern for most Christians. All popularity with no persecution can point to little boldness. All persecution with no popularity can point to insensitivity or harshness. Discuss where you fall on this spectrum and why.
- ▶ Read VS. 11, 19-20 - What convictions gave them boldness? What other convictions should give us boldness?

### II. Why Do We Struggle With BOLDNESS?

- ▶ Share an opportunity where you shared about Christ to someone and felt either timidity/fear or boldness?
- ▶ Share your main struggle with living more boldly, whether to live out your Christian conviction somewhere or to speak boldly about Christ. (ex. approval of man, fear of rejection or some loss, etc.)

### III. How Do We Get BOLDNESS?

- ▶ How can we draw encouragement from what the people “perceived” and “recognized” in Peter and John from VS. 13?
- ▶ What does being filled with the Holy Spirit have to do with boldness (VS. 8, 31)?

### **Boldness:**

*Courage and confidence to speak in spite of any danger or threat, and a willingness to suffer the consequences.*

*"Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen."*

— Martin Luther

### **TAKE ACTION**

1. What is one area of life where you would like to be more bold?
2. Who is one person you'd like to share Christ with more boldly?