Acts 4:1-22 Discussion Questions

- This text opens with an effort to silence the gospel. Why do you think the individuals mentioned didn't like the message that was being spread?
    - Have you ever faced opposition for speaking the Word?
- After arresting the apostles, the rulers and elders question them. How would you describe Peter's response in v. 8-12?
    - Peter could have taken the path of least resistance, but instead he used the moment for gospel witness. How might this change the way we think about God's sovereign purpose when we face opposition for His name?
    - What ultimate goals should determine what we say when we're given the chance to speak of Jesus?
- Verse 13 says Peter and John were uneducated, common men. Where did their boldness come from?
    - How does spending time with Jesus free us from the need to live for other people's approval?
    - How does spending time with Jesus make us more bold?
    - How are you doing when it comes to boldness? What would it look like to take a new risk for Jesus?
- Peter directly calls out their sin. They are the ones who "crucified" and "rejected" Jesus (v. 10-11). Why is it important for people to know about their sin?

    - How should we incorporate the truth about sin when we share the gospel?

- Read Psalm 118:22 and 1 Peter 2:4-6. What does it mean that Jesus is the “cornerstone”? What is He the cornerstone of?
    - Are there any competing stones that the church is tempted to make the cornerstone instead of Jesus?
    - What about in your life? Are there any other “stones” that are trying to be more foundational than Jesus?
- Peter says, “There is salvation in no one else” but Jesus. What does Jesus save us from? And why is He the only one who can do it? (see John 14:6, 2 Cor 5:21)
    - If this is such good news for the world, why do so many people reject it?
- Peter and John refuse to stop speaking in the name of Jesus. What does this teach us about the limits of government authority?
    - What does this teach us about the reliability of popular opinion?
    - Have you ever had to decide to obey God rather than men?
    - Where are we most likely to face this kind of situation today?
- Despite the opposition from the Pharisees, the church kept growing rapidly after this encounter. How might this encourage us when speaking of Christ comes with a personal cost?
- How can spending time with Jesus prepare us for those moments?