



G – Gather for Prayer

Father,

Grant me the boldness to faithfully testify to who you are and what you have done in all circumstances

In Jesus' Name, Amen

R – Read the Text (Acts 4:13-22)

¹³ Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. ¹⁴ And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in reply. ¹⁵ But when they had ordered them to leave the Council, they began to confer with one another, ¹⁶ saying, "What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy ^[a] miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name." ¹⁸ And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all ^[d] in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; ²⁰ for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." ²¹ When they had threatened them further, they let them go (finding no basis on which to punish them) on account of the people, because they were all glorifying God for what had happened; ²² for the man was more than forty years old on whom this ^[e] miracle of healing had been performed.

O – Observe what God has said

Why was it hard for the Sanhedrin to bring charges against Peter and John?

How did Peter respond to the threat he heard? Why?

W – Work on Application

What would it take/what does it take to silence you? What would it take/what does it take to keep you from sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ? I'm convinced that for so many of us, it takes far less than arrest and trial to shut us up. Oh how quickly we retreat, give up, or remain reticent! Here, Peter and John break through the barriers of threats and existential persecution to advance the kingdom of God. What barriers might need to be broken through in your life, in my life, in the life of our church? Perhaps you need to defiantly break through comfort, complacency, possible embarrassment, or ridicule. Perhaps it is standing strong in your home when all those around you are sinking in disbelief or sin. Perhaps it is choosing to speak truth when the world has bought the lies. Perhaps it is faithfully sharing your story with those who need to hear it.

What barriers are keeping us from sharing the gospel?

How might we pray for God to break down these barriers for the advancement of his mission?

Family Discipleship Resource

May 25-31

(Acts 4.13-22)

Family Weekly Memory Verse: “for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”-Acts 4:20