



## **G** – Gather for Prayer

*Father,*

*Give me the wisdom to interpret the friction and stress around me as opportunities for growth and for your mission to flourish.*

*In Jesus' Name, Amen*

## **R** – Read the Text (Acts 4:1-12)

*"1As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, <sup>2</sup>being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they laid hands on them and put them in prison until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.*

*<sup>5</sup>On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; <sup>6</sup>and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. <sup>7</sup>When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, <sup>9</sup>if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to <sup>10</sup>how this man has been made well, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. <sup>11</sup>He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved."*

## **O** – Observe what God has said

***Why were Peter and John arrested?***

***How did Peter use his arrest and trial to advance the mission of God?***

## **W** – Work on Application

When God's people are faithful to do what God has instructed them to do in sharing the gospel message and making disciples of all nations, they will inevitably confront those who are "acutely irked/provoked" by the truth. The gospel transcends political agendas and upsets the status quo and many who have any power whatsoever will do what they can to inhibit its proliferation. That said, when God's people face inevitable persecution, as Peter and John do here, they need not be discouraged but considerate of the special opportunity afforded them to stand and share the truth in a way that could in no way else be accomplished. Peter will write in one of his letters the following: "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

## **Family Discipleship Resource**

May 18-24

(Acts 4.1-12)

But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed" (1 Peter 4:12-13).

***How do we often look at trials and tribulations?***

***How might we remind ourselves to look at these things differently?***

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Family Weekly Memory Verse: "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved."-Acts 4:12