

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

Acts 4:13-22

For Starting

- Go around the group, saying 3 times: "Unique New York" 😊
- What subject do you find the easiest to speak about? Why?
- What part of the Bible passage got your attention?

For Reviewing

- Who saw Peter and John's courage (v.13a)? See Acts 4:5-6. How did they label/describe Peter and John (v.13b)?
- What was their immediate response by the questioners (v.14)? What fact/s were indisputable?
- What were Peter and John ordered to do (v.15), and why?
- What did everyone in Jerusalem know (v.16)? Why was this a problem for the questioners?
- What were the questioners worried would happen if Peter and John continued doing what they had done (v.17)?
- What were Peter and John explicitly told *not* to do (v.18)? What response did Peter and John give to this order (v.19)?
- Why were Peter and John unable to stop speaking (v.20)?

For Discussion

- The Sanhedrin analysed everything *except* the Gospel message. How might this have changed the outcome?
- Do you think Peter's behaviour towards the Sanhedrin was disrespectful or justified?
- Orthodox Jews would have hesitated before disobeying their religious leaders, yet Peter and John courageously stand out. What was the reality that Peter and John were declaring?
- What have you personally "seen and heard" about Jesus that encourages you to unashamedly speak out about Him?
- Peter and John met a direct need in their community. What are the greatest needs of the people in our community? How can we have a genuine impact on these needs?
- You could end by reading together Acts 4:20.

Acts 4:13-22 (NIVUK)

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵ So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶ “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

¹⁸ Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. ²⁰ For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

²¹ After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.