

2024 - Family Devo

Feb 25 - a



READ: Acts 4:23-31

Main Idea: When Peter and John report everything that happened with the Jewish authorities, the Christians praise God! They pray a prayer that exalts God for his supreme power. Instead of praying asking to not be persecuted, these Christians pray that they may continue to speak boldly about Jesus while God continues to perform signs through his name.

DISCUSS

Children: Try to think about what that must have been like! Peter and John get out of prison and tell all the believers that they have been told to disappear and stop talking about Jesus. Those people all start praising Jesus and pray for strength to continue preaching about Jesus. What do you think that sounded like for the people standing around and watching and listening to them?

Teen: Was their prayer for themselves or for God to be glorified? Would the apostles have been as bold without the Holy Spirit? When we gather with fellow believers to praise God, is God pleased? Are we strengthened?

Adult: What a viewpoint these Christians had! They had just heard about the first persecution, at least the earliest we have recorded. Their attitude was not to focus on the bad circumstances. They reminded themselves that this was prophesied and asked for courage. When you go through trials, of either a physical or spiritual nature, how do you view them? Do you look for a way out, solutions to the problem, focus on the negatives, or do you think about why you are going through the trial and pray that you'll be strong through it? What type of mind shift do you need to make to help you recognize that some trials make you stronger?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Psalm 56:9b-11 (ESV)

This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?



2024 - Family Devo

Feb 25 - b



READ: Acts 4:32-37

Main Idea: The church, in spite of this early persecution, is growing and full of unity and generosity. God was working powerfully through the apostles enabling their message about Jesus and the miraculous signs that accompanied. Christians were sharing with one another as there was need.

DISCUSS

Children: I want you to think about what is going on at this point. Jesus has been killed in a very brutal way. A lot of these people had probably been there when that happened. The apostles are talking to anyone who will listen, to try to save them. Thousands of people have listened and are talking to other people. They had to be worried that what happened to Jesus might happen to them, or that they also might end up in jail. But they kept talking, trying to reach everyone.

Teen: What does this strong unity do for the church? Self is not the concern of these early church members. What do they care about, and why is it so much better than the selfishness that is so prevalent in our society today?

Adult: It seems that there was a lot of excitement among the new Christians. They met daily, shared meals in homes and new members were added daily (2:46-47). The apostles continued to preach with great power. In my lifetime, we've seen the world's attitude shift, not just the world outside the Church, but inside as well. How can we generate the first century type of enthusiasm today? What commitment do we need to foster to make us stronger Christians? What can you change to make your Christian walk closer to God?

PRAY

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