

THE BOOK OF *Acts*

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

September 24, 2023

PRAYING FOR BOLDNESS

1

The church's first response to hearing Peter and John's report was to pray, specifically addressing God as "Sovereign Lord." What does this response reveal about their attitudes?

2

Why might Psalm 2:1-2 have come to mind for these Christians in this prayer? How is it relevant to the circumstances they are facing?

3

What can the church today learn about praying scripture from these early Christians? How can we embrace this practice? Are there precautions we should take?

4

The prayer does not focus on how the authorities were against Peter and John and the other Christians, but how they were against Jesus. Is this perspective surprising, given the circumstances? What attitude does this reveal in the early church?

5

Would we be as likely to see persecution and rejection as directed at Jesus—or would we see it as directed at ourselves? How might our cultural conditioning lead us to “take things personally”?

6

In verse 28, the prayer indicates that these believers see the crucifixion of Jesus as ultimately the work of the “hand” and predestined “plan” of God. How would this connect with the preaching of Peter in Acts 1:23 as well as the emphasis on God’s nature as “sovereign” in this same prayer?

7

What does it mean that they ask the Lord to “look upon their threats”? Is it significant that adjacent to the acknowledgement of “threats,” they do not pray for safety, but for “boldness”?

8

The believers pray to “speak [the] word with all boldness” (v.29) and then “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness” (v.31). What does this indicate about how God answers prayers? Have we seen prayers for boldness answered in our own lives?

