

Acts: Learning How to Church
Living like it's Thanksgiving Every Day
Acts 4
October 13, 2019

Getting started...

How do we maintain gratefulness through the ebbs and flows of life?

Grateful people choose God's way.

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Grateful people choose to pray.

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The key to being a grateful person:

Questions for Life Group or Personal Reflection

Getting Started

Sometimes we want to be thankful, but our life circumstances make it difficult. Begin your reflection by praying about the things on your heart. Take a moment to remind yourself of great truths we believe about God.

Do people usually default to being grateful? How about the Christians you know? Are grateful people happy all the time? Explain your answers.

Have you experienced a time when life got tougher because you expressed or took a stand for your faith? Could you describe that situation? Looking back, are there lessons you carry with you because of that experience?

Is there a comparison between the opposition we face for following Christ and the resistance Peter and John felt in Acts 4?

What point from this week's message got your attention (taught you something, encouraged you, challenged you, offended you, etc.)?

Deeper Dive

We often think opposition, resistance or persecution means something is going wrong. Did Peter, John and the church interpret opposition this way in Acts 4? Read Luke 12:4-7. How do these verses inform your perspective?

The Spirit does some of His best work when things get difficult. Read James 1:2-5, Philippians 4:4-13, Psalm 37:1-7, Romans 5:1-6 and/or Galatians 5:22-25. What are some defining characteristics of following Christ?

Peter & John used every opportunity to share Christ. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 & 2:2-8, Philemon 1:6, Matthew 4:19-20 & 28:19-20 and/or Colossians 4:2-6. List some insights these texts give us for sharing our faith.

Acts 4 illustrates a balance between respecting human authorities while also choosing obedience to God first. How do you respond when a person in authority asks you to do something that conflicts with your faith (think work, government, school, home, church, etc.)? These passages may help: Rom. 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-17; Matt. 5:13-16 & 22:15-22, Hebrews 13:1-8

Getting Practical

It's possible there is an area of your life where you are struggling to be obedient to God. Ask your friends to pray God would give you strength to choose obedience to Him rather than convenience or preference.

Reread Acts 4:13. List some ways we can "be with Jesus" nowadays. Choose 1 of these ways and ask the group to pray that you'll grow in this spiritual habit (give them permission to ask you how you're doing too!).