

# Discussion Questions

## LifeGroups



Date: May 30-31, 2020  
Sermon Series: Upside Down  
Sermon Title: Signs You're the Real Deal  
Sermon Text: Acts 4

### Bottom Line

Just because you know a lot about Christianity, doesn't mean you are an authentic Christian. Authentic Christians serve Christ consistently, despite the suffering. Authentic Christians believe in Jesus and have a personal relationship with Him. Authentic Christians uniquely experience God at times. Authentic Christians exhibit the generosity of God. If we live and act like real Christians, it's going to shake up the world in a God honoring way!

### Scripture

Acts 4

*1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3 They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. 4 But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.*

*5 The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. 7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"*

*8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 Jesus is*

*"the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the cornerstone."*

*12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."*

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized 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 performed a notable sign, 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, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! 20 As for us, 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.

23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

"Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?  
26 The kings of the earth rise up  
and the rulers band together  
against the Lord  
and against his anointed one."

27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the

money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

## Gratitude, Prayer and Accountability

It has been such a difficult week in the Twin Cities. We have so much to pray for. Take time today to pray for our city. Pray against injustice. Pray for peace. Pray for hope. Pray for what God might be calling us to do. Pray for the family of George Floyd. Pray for our law enforcement families.

Then, talk about the following questions: What happened this past week that you are grateful for? What would you like to prayer for today? How did God work in your life since the last time we were together? What is He doing through you as it relates to your Adopt 7?

## Let's Start

Take some time this week to acknowledge our collective pain. Share about how you are doing as a group as it relates to the recent events in the Twin Cities.

## Let's Talk

1. Read Acts 4:1-12. What do you notice about Peter and John in this passage? What were these men teaching about Jesus? What do we learn about the Holy Spirit in this passage? Why do you think the early church grew so quickly?
2. Read Acts 4:13-22. What did the religious leaders fear about the message of Peter and John? Is there anything about Peter and John that you can relate to as you read this story? What? If God could use these men, how do you suppose he could use you?
3. Read Acts 4:23-37. What do you notice about prayer in this passage? What do you notice about how the church took care of each other?

## Let's Act

The Twin Cities needs the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ. Talk about practical ways that your group could serve our city this week. End your time by committing to do it!

## Notes:

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