



context:

line by line:

application:

**A BOLD PRAYER (Acts 4:29-30):**

“Enable me to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Jesus.”



## study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

Text: Acts 4:23-31

1. What questions or push back did this week's message raise for you?
2. Read Acts 4:23-31 through together.
  - a. What was these early Christians' view of God?
  - b. How did their life situation affect that view?
3. The early church seems to pray the Hebrew prayer book (Psalms) often. Read Psalm 2.
  - a. Can you see why they picked this one at this time?
  - b. Having read this Psalm, what other observations do you notice about the “attitude” of this prayer?
4. Tom Wright in commenting on Acts 4:23-31 says the following:

I have prayed that prayer many times, not usually in such dramatic circumstances, but often with a sense that today, just as much as in the apostles' time, there is a battle going on. Sometimes it is with actual, official authorities, as in Acts 4. Sometimes it is with the spirit of the age, with the implied mood of an organization, a family or a club, where certain things are done and said and certain other things are emphatically 'not done' or 'not said'—including, it may be, a definite statement of Christian truth, which bursts upon a room in such circumstances like someone saying a rude word. Sometimes the battle is internal, where things I badly want to do, say or think conflict with what the text really is saying, and I have to recognize my own bias, repent and allow the text to reform my outlook and behaviour. Whatever, the battle is real. I do not say it is always necessarily with actual dark powers, though I would never rule that out. I just know that when you come to speak or write about Jesus, about his cross, about his resurrection, about the new life which can break chains and set people free, there seem to be powers around the place which do their best to oppose what you are doing.

  - a. Do you agree with Wright's view of the mission Jesus has given us?
  - b. Have you ever sensed that “there is a battle going on”? If so, when and how?
5. Pray [spend extra time] the prayer of Acts 4:29-30 (bottom of outline on the other side) boldly, or each other, and your church, the movement of Jesus known as Eastridge Church.