

**10.19.09/ Acts 4:23-31****Materials Needed**

Paper with the words "Gospel Message" written on it.

**Opening Activity**

Divide the kids into 3 groups. One group represents the disciples and one the Jews, and one the Priests. The object of the game is for the disciple group to get across the room to give the "Gospel Message" paper to the group representing the Jews. The teacher represents God. The Priest should place furniture or other objects in the way of the disciples. Make a rule that the disciples cannot walk around or over obstacles. Tell them that if they have trouble they should ask for help from you and that you represent God/Jesus/Holy Spirit.

**Step 1** - Have the Disciples stand across the room from the Jews. Put the Priest on one side and have them put things between the two groups.

**Step 2** – As the disciple group tries to get to the Jew group they should ask you for help and then you move each item out of the way. Tell them that Jesus is the one that helps us share the message of the gospel with others.

**Clarification**

After Jesus died and came back to life He gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to His disciples and told them to share the gospel to everyone around them. When the disciples started to talk about Jesus and what He had done for us, the priests and temple police came and arrested Peter and John and questioned them and demanded that they stop telling people about Jesus. Peter and John refused and told them that God was in control and they would never stop sharing the gospel with the people. The priests threatened them and then let them go.

**Read Acts 4:23-31**

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

"Why did the Gentiles rage,  
and the peoples plot in vain?  
The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers were gathered together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed"

for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Note: If you find this passage difficult for the kids to understand easily when read aloud, summarize it for them after you've read it aloud.

**Discussion**

**Question 1:** What was more important to Peter, John and the other disciples: what the priests wanted them to do or what Jesus wanted them to do? *What Jesus wanted them to do.*

**Question 2:** What was the disciples' response to the threats of the priests to them? *They went to their friends who also believed in Jesus and told them. Then they all prayed and asked God to intervene and give them strength to continue to do His work with boldness, even in the face of opposition.*



**Question 3:** How does prayer help us? *When we acknowledge that Jesus is in control, honor Him, and ask for boldness, we are given the boldness to share Jesus with our friends and family.*

**Question 4:** What are some obstacles that people put in our path as we try to talk about Jesus to our friends?

**Question 5:** What should we do when we feel like we can't do what Jesus wants us to do? *Pray and talk with people who love Jesus. Ask Jesus to help us speak His word with all boldness.*

**Wrap Up**

Ask the kids if they have any questions about how to pray. Be prepared to field these questions.

Close with prayer asking Jesus to help us and the Holy Spirit to give us confidence and boldness to share with those around us who God is and how much He loves us.