



## 10.2.11/ Acts 4:1-4, 18-20

### Opening Activity

Ask the children to share a memory of their favorite vacation. Ask where they went, what they did, who they went with, etc. Have them tell you the most exciting parts of the trip. When everyone has had a turn, explain that it's easy to share about the things that we love when we are really excited about them. In today's passage, we'll see how Peter and John were excited to share about Jesus because they loved Him so much that they couldn't contain it!

### Read Acts 4:1-4, 18-20

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed and the number of the men came to about five thousand. . . So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

### Summarize the Passage

The leaders of Israel at the time had gone to great lengths to falsely convict Jesus and send Him to the cross to die. When the passage says those leaders were "greatly annoyed" with Peter and John, it was because they thought they had taken care of the "problem" of Jesus' ministry spreading by killing Him, but people were still sharing the news that Jesus is God and that the grave could not contain Him. And not only were Peter and John teaching people about Christ and His resurrection from the dead, but more than 5,000 people came to believe in Jesus as their savior.

### Questions

1. At the end of today's passage we see Peter and John's response to the leaders who were telling them they could not teach in the name of Jesus. And what is their response? *They can't help but tell others about the things they've seen and heard!* Think about how excited you all were to share with us your favorite vacation story. Why aren't we more like that when we tell the story of what Jesus has done in our lives? *Answers may vary but may include being afraid of what people will think about us if we talk about Jesus, not knowing what to say, or maybe we don't feel as excited as we should so we don't share as we should.*
2. Read verse 31 from the same chapter as today's passage:  
"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."

When we try to share Jesus with our friends or family because we think we "ought to," we may be able to for a little while, but we will eventually run out of energy of our own because our hearts are not in the right place. We are doing it out of obligation rather than as a natural response to the love we have for God. According to verse 31, what are the ways we can avoid sharing Jesus with just our own power? *First we pray. . . and then we allow the Holy Spirit to work and move inside of us. Through the Holy Spirit alone, we will have the energy and desire to "continue to speak the work of God with boldness!"*

### Closing Discussion

Sometimes we say we love Jesus with our whole hearts, but then later that day we find ourselves not acting like we do. For example, maybe when we know a friend is having a bad day, we'll tell them not to worry about their problems rather than sharing that Jesus is our Comforter and He wants us to bring our problems to Him! This happens because many times, our hearts and minds want different things. We want to worship Jesus and bring Him glory, but we're afraid of what people might think if we talk about Him. Peter and John didn't have any problems sharing what an amazing and miraculous God we



have . . . so what might they realize that we do not? *The things of this world are temporary; Our toys, our hobbies, our clothes. And we are loved and adored by the King of the Kings, the creator of the Universe. When we remember what Jesus sacrificed on the cross for us, the silly things we worry about on Earth don't seem to matter as much. Peter and John understood how miraculous the resurrection of Christ was and what that means for them (that they too will not be left in the grave . . . but will be raised up to live in Heaven with Jesus for eternity)!*

### Reflection/Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me. We pray that this week, you will provide opportunities for us to share how much we love you with our friends and family. We pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us and give us the right words to say. Help us not to lean on our own power or understanding, but only on you. Please give us courage and boldness to speak like Peter and John. We pray for our friends that do not know you and that you will give us the desire to talk with them about how excited we are to know you.

If you have questions about what Christ did for you on the cross or how to share your story with others, ask your parents!