

LG 8: Prayer Acts 4:23-31

Objectives: That we would learn a Biblical pattern of prayer and start to put it into action.

Getting to Know You (15 minutes)

When there is a crisis in your life, where do you turn?

For the leader- you will need to read Ch. 3-4 to get the context for our passage. This is a great study for you to involve solid believers who are not current leaders. You will need to brief them on the application part in advance!

Launch

Last week we saw in Chapter 2 that this new community of believers was enjoying the favor of people in Jerusalem. Immediately in Chapter 3, a crisis enters their life in the form of a conflict with the religious leaders of the day. Summarize what happens from 3:1- 4:12.

Explore

Read 4:13-22

What was the religious leaders response to the miracle and sermon of Peter?

(astonished, told them not speak in the name of Jesus)

- **What does it mean to speak or act in someone's name?** (to speak or act as that person would speak or act. To speak on their behalf with their authority)

What would you do if someone told you to no longer speak or act in Jesus name?

What did Peter and John do? (they said they can not stop speaking of what they have seen and heard, but they also went to the community for prayer)

Read 4:23-31

What did they do in response to the crisis?

(they went to their friend, shared what happened, and in unity prayed)

- **Is this a normal way our culture deals with crisis? Why or why not?**
- **Why is this a good way to deal with crisis?**
- **What keeps you from responding in this way?**

Often our way of praying is different than the way people prayed in the Bible. Let's look at their prayer a little more closely.

What do you observe about their prayer?

(they prayed together in unity, they spend a lot of time acknowledging who God is, they include

scripture, they tell God of the situation, they ask Him for something, they keep the focus on Jesus)

How is it different from the way you pray?

How do they describe God in their prayer?

(The phrase "Sovereign Lord" is most often used to describe slave/master relationship, He is the God of creation, the God of revelation, sovereign God of History)

What actions are attributed to God? [He made (24), He spoke (25), He decided (28)]

Why is it important to acknowledge God in prayer (instead of just telling Him what you want)?

What keeps you from doing this?

What is the role of scripture (Ps. 2) in their prayer?

What do they ask of God? (to consider the threats, give them boldness, and that he would do signs and wonders to validate the message)

- **What did they not ask?**
- **What do you think of what they asked or did not ask?**

What was the result? (God showed them He was with them with a sign and with answering their prayers)

Apply

- **End by sharing something personal you want/need prayer for. It could be about a crisis or it could be about a sin in your life. (Probably best in smaller groups)**
- **Pray together in the pattern given here: spend most of the time praying the attributes of God that fit the situation, ask that the Lord would help us be bold in telling others, ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit.**
- **Instead of asking God to get you out of the crisis, ask God to help you walk with Him and make Him known!**

Announcements (5 minutes)

