

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

NOV. 2/3 - ACTS 4 - PETER & JOHN BEFORE THE COUNCIL

## OPENING QUESTION

*Last week we had a moment of processing and praying about all we have discussed and learned through this series so far. Now that you have had a week to let it all simmer, what is a central theme, point, principle, learning, prayer or desire that you have so far through this study?*

*What is one miraculous event you wish you were present to see?*

*Have you ever seen or been a part of a miracle?*

## READ TOGETHER

**Acts 4:1-31**

## BIG IDEA

**God does the miraculous through ordinary people who are possessed by Him.**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do we balance the fact that we are ordinary yet have tremendous potential?
2. When it comes to our spiritual life and advancing the Kingdom how far can human effort get us?
  - a. Share an experience of when you attempted something in your spiritual life or Kingdom life through only your own effort and power. What was the outcome? What did you learn?
3. Acts 4:8, 12, 13 contain some key truths about how we are empowered for the miraculous. What are these truths?
4. Acts 4:8 – Peter was filled with the Spirit: How can we be filled with the Spirit? This has certainly been covered in previous weeks, but is so critical to Kingdom life, that we need to understand it, and pursue it!
  - a. Whether it's over the course of your life, or over the last few weeks, how have you "pursued the Spirit"? What did it look like practically for you? What have you learned about pursuing the Spirit over this time?
5. Acts 4:12 – We can only be saved through Jesus: What is the connection between our salvation and a miraculous life? Can all who are saved see miraculous things occur? What would prevent this?
6. Acts 4:13 – They spent time with Jesus: How do we spend time with Jesus? What does it look like for someone to live with Jesus and follow Him in 2013?
  - a. What have you learned in your walk with Jesus about spending time with Him?
  - b. How will you 'be with' Jesus this week?

BECOMING  
PART OF THE  
RIPPLE  
EFFECT



## CHALLENGE

This week commit to being open to God doing the miraculous through you. Ask to be filled with the Spirit, live out your salvation, and intentionally walk with Jesus.

You may want to continue starting and ending your day with a prayer like this:

*“Lord Jesus, I am yours. All of me. Forgive me anew today. Everything I am I offer to you. I sacrifice the things that I thought were important, and I commit myself to what you think is important. I long to live the life I was created to live, and I know I cannot experience this fully without your Spirit. You, Lord, can do the impossible in my life, in my family’s life, in my friend’s life, at my workplace... everywhere. You are the God of miracles and power. I believe you can do the miraculous in my life and around me, and I ask with boldness, that through your Spirit, you would. So Lord, fill me today with your Spirit, in this very moment, that I might live empowered by you and experience the miraculous”.*

## PRAYER

- As the leader pray for your group to be bold in asking God for the miraculous and open about sharing their dreams with one another.
- Then, encourage group members to share an area they would like to see God do something impossible. It may be the very same area that seemed “out of reach” from last week’s study.
- Have another group member pray for that person to be filled by the Spirit and emboldened to ask and act in the power of God. **Ask God for the Impossible!**

## NEXT STEP

The best resource is the book of Acts. Read it realizing that what is presented in the lives of the believers is to be the norm for followers of Christ. Read ahead, read it again, read it slow or fast. Regardless, being in God’s word and in this book is critical!

**If your group feels like a challenge, commit to reading Acts in its entirety this week!**

