Acts 4: 1-31. Study notes

**Worship:**

Spend some time praising God that He is sovereign and in control of everything even our enemies. You could use one of the following songs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lay-r2g52SQ&list=WL&index=22>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaO8U70M9Hs>

Or I came across a new song today which is also appropriate: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22WoEYfuZN0

or choose a Psalm about God’s sovereignty – Psalm 71 v 1-8, Psalm 65, to name a couple

**Word:**

Read Acts 4 v 1-22

1. Why were the Sanhedrin so offended by what happened?

2. What truths does Peter draw on in replying to the question in v7?

3. Draw up a chart that contrasts the attributes etc of the Sanhedrin vs Peter and John. What can we learn from this?

4. The text constantly refers to Peter and John – but there are never any words recorded for John himself? Why might this be?

5. In v 20, Peter tells the Sanhedrin – “We cannot help speaking about what we have heard and seen”. What have you heard and seen of Jesus? What is his story in your life? Encourage people to share what God is doing in their lives at the moment.

6. What is the purpose of opposition to the Christian faith? Opposition in this story is a direct attack on Peter and John, but opposition comes in many forms. What different types of opposition have you encountered? (Continuum from persecution to apathy)

Read Acts 4: v 23-31

8. What are the key points of the church’s prayer?

9. There are 3 things which stand out about Peter and John: they had been with Jesus, they were empowered by the Holy Spirit and they were part of a praying community. What challenge does that bring to us? Which of these 3 do you most struggle with? How might your group help you?

In addition to the specific prayer needs for your group, do keep praying for wisdom and discernment in seeking a new senior pastor.