



The Church is... Testifying: Speaking Boldly

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Have you ever spoken without thinking? Was the outcome good...or bad? Can you share an example?

Read the following verses: Acts 2:4; 4:8-10, 31; 13:9-11. What do you notice?

In the book of Acts, Luke typically uses the phrase “filled with the Spirit” to imply a particular result: bold, Holy Spirit-inspired speech. Let’s look at a few of the promises that Jesus made regarding the work of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 4:14-21

- This is not a promise so much as a foundation from Jesus life himself. In his synagogue “sermon” Jesus quotes Isaiah 61. What is the point of that passage, and what does Jesus say about the Why and How of his ministry?

Luke 12:11-12

- What does Jesus say that the Holy Spirit will do ... and when?
- Are there moments when you worry about what to say? Why do you think you do that?

John 14:25-27

- First thing: who is Jesus speaking to? Why do you think this is significant?
- Despite who Jesus’ first hearers were, do you think that, in some way, we can claim this as well?
- What do you notice that the Spirit “works with”?
- In the context of this promise of the Holy Spirit, why might Jesus’ promise of peace be so important?

Read Acts 4:18-31

While there are multiple examples in the book of Acts of believers speaking out boldly, spend a few minutes digging in to this account.

- How do Peter and John respond to the command of the Sanhedrin (the ruling council of the Jews)? How does this compare with the apostles pre-Pentecost?
- What was the church’s response when they heard what happened to Peter & John? Honestly, if something like that happened today, what might our response be?
- What did these believers ask for, in light of the opposition they were facing? How did God respond?
- What about you, do you need to be more bold? What are some steps that you can take, in light our discussion today?

We pray... for the church in India as persecution and opposition grow, nurtured by the ideology of religious nationalism and extremism. Pray that the church would stand steadfast and in faith, continuing to reach out in love even to those that oppose and persecute.

— Vijayesh Lal, the Delhi-based general secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of India