



THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MY GOD STORY: When Did I Meet Jesus Christ?



WEEK 3

## Acts 4:1-31

This week's message is all about boldness! We see by Peter and John's example in Acts 4 that their boldness in sharing the gospel was a product of their dependence on God. In their culture, the authority to speak to a crowd and teach of religious things was only granted to those who had positions or titles. However, Peter and John's authority did not come from man, it came from the Lord, Himself (Acts 4:8)! When our boldness comes from the Holy Spirit, it is not dependent on who we are, what the world has taught us, or any authority given to us by men. Rather, our boldness to declare Jesus is birthed from having been with God (Act 4:13b). Just like Peter and John, we also have the gifts of God's Word to offer clarity, Christ who gives us courage; and the presence of God to enable us to continue in boldness. However, we cannot acquire these things without having been changed by the power of the gospel. Have you accepted Christ's gift of salvation through His death on the cross? If you haven't, now would be a great time to do so! Talk to your small group leader or someone in your group who can pray with you and make this the day that changes your eternity! If you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, then we will continue preparing our own testimonies that we began last week.

During the month of October, each small group member will be committing to writing out their "God story" so that they will feel confident to share it with others. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." How does sharing your testimony convey hope to someone who does not know Jesus? What does this verse say about our timing and tone when it comes to sharing Jesus Christ?

Last week we focused on constructing the first part of your testimony, "Who you were before Jesus Christ?" The second part of your "God story" is to tell about "When did you meet Jesus Christ?" Have the first part of your testimony and a pen ready to tackle this next part! This section should be about two minutes of your testimony.

**Step Two: "When did you meet Jesus Christ?"** Last week's focus was on sin as the problem. This week we want to make it clear in our testimonies that Christ is the solution. Your salvation is not what you were able to accomplish on your own, but it was purchased by Jesus on the cross (Ephesians 2:8). Including the gospel in your testimony is super impactful! Talk about when you realized you were a sinner, the penalty of sin was death, Christ paid the penalty for you, and your need to accept Christ for forgiveness and new life in Him.

Use the following questions to help you start formulating this part of your testimony. When was the first time you heard the gospel? What were your initial reactions to the gospel? When did your heart start to soften towards Christ? What were the final struggles that went through your mind just before you accepted Christ? Who did God use in your life to invite you to a relationship with Christ? What scripture passages or verses did the Holy Spirit use to convict you of your sin and encourage you to accept the work of Jesus as the solution? Why did you go ahead and accept Christ?

Take five minutes to write out step 2 of your testimony and then share it in groups of 3 to 4 people. Ask for feedback from one another if it was concise (about two minutes), clear (Christ is the solution), and compelling (does the listener want to hear more).

Helpful Hints for Writing out your God Story:

- 1) Avoid using churchy words that non-believers will not understand such as justification, condemnation, or regeneration.
- 2) Make the gospel of Christ clear through your testimony.
- 3) Use Scripture. Romans 10:17 says that faith comes through the hearing of the Word of Christ.