

Small Group Connect

WEEK 4 | *Bold Statements*

If your big idea isn't a little scary, if it doesn't cause you to need to pray Acts 4:29 kinds of prayers, if it doesn't lead to a bold statement of faith, your big idea isn't big enough.

The first small group started a movement that we're still talking about more than 2000 years later. It didn't happen because they were educated, skilled, highly resourced or technologically advanced. It happened because they prayed bold prayers, expected bold answers, and took bold actions.

Something to Consider

Lead your class through a discussion using the following questions.

1. Are the majority of your prayers ME-Centered, WE-centered, or THEM-centered?
2. What's the last BOLD prayer you prayed? How did God answer?
3. What do you imagine would happen if the people of our group prayed specifically about the big idea of our group everyday?
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of the prayers of your small group?

1 = Repetitious | "Now I lay me down to sleep."

2 = Organ Recital | Only & always about sickness.

3 = Prayer is my emergency phone call.

4 = Praying earnestly, waiting *impatiently*.

5 = Acts 4:29 prayers clearly answered by God.

Something to Pray

You may have already had your group prayer time or you may be about to begin. Either way, lead your class in a conversational prayer based on Acts 4:29-30

CONVERSATIONAL PRAYER

This is the same verse and prayer as last week. This week invite your class to pray 'conversationally'. Instead of collecting prayer requests select someone to open and someone to close your prayer time. Don't feel compelled to pray in order. Instead, encourage people to pray one sentence prayers that express their prayer request. Any, all, or some can pray—whoever wants to. Close the prayer when it seems appropriate.

READ, ACTS 4:29, "...grant your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

1. **ME**—Ask God to give you boldness to share the gospel.
2. **WE**—Ask God to work signs and wonders through your group that will point people to Jesus.
3. **THEM**—Ask God to soften the hearts of friends, family and coworkers who are far from God. Ask Him to give people in your group the opportunity to introduce them to Jesus this week.

Something to Do

Nothing draws people together like a goal to reach, a game to win or a project to accomplish. Try to accomplish both of these ideas sometime over the next 6 weeks.

1. **CONTINUE**—to make plans for a group fellowship
2. **CONTINUE**—talking about ways your group could serve individuals or groups in our community.
3. **CHALLENGE**—your class to **memorize & pray** Acts 4:29-30.