

Calvary Temple Life Groups
Theme: The Holy Spirit & Courage
Lesson 1

Theme: The Holy Spirit helps us to stand BOLDLY for Christ.

Text: Acts 4:1-31

**Checklist: Check and see they bring in their Bible if not please provide one if possible*

Story Telling by Life Group Leader (Acts 3 & 4 Summary):

Things to know:

- 1. Close your Bible.**
- 2. Pay attention to the narrator.**

Begin your Story:

Once upon time there was a man, who was born lame, sitting at the temple gate. Peter and John went up to the temple to pray at the ninth hour, which is 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The man asked the two servants of God for alms. They both looked at the man, and asked for his attention. The lame man was looking at them expectantly. Peter said, "We don't have what you need but we will give you what we have, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth; **rise up and walk.**" The man was healed immediately and rejoiced. The people were amazed, and they used the opportunity to preach the Gospel. People were saved and the leaders hated it. The rulers put them in jail just for a night to stop them from preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As the leaders began to ask them questions, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke to them courageously. When they returned back to their place, they reported everything to their friends and they began to pray about it. After they prayed, the place of their meeting was shaken and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the Word of God boldly.

Opening Activity:

Has there ever been a time in your life when you're doing good things and people are still looking at you in a bad way? How did it make you feel? Did you want to continue with the good work or did you want to throw in the towel of doing good? Give time for discussion.

Open Discussion:

Things to do: Open your Bible and start rebuilding the story from the text:

Read Acts 4:1-4

- What happened to Peter and John?
- Why did the Saducees put them in custody?
- How would you feel if you were one of them?
- How many of them heard the Word and believed?

Read verse 5 to verse 12

- What happened to Peter when the family of the high priest asked them questions?

- What did Peter tell the rulers of the people and the elders of Israel?
- How does the nature of our heart become when asked in the eyes of the crowd?
- Where do we teach the truth?

Read verse 13 to verse 22

- What did the elders and the high priests **see in** Peter and John?
- What did they perceive about Peter and John?
- What did the elders comment when they saw the healed man standing with Peter and John?
- What was the elders' suggestion for the preaching of the name of Jesus?
- What was Peter and John's reply?
- What was the people's reaction?
- How old was the healed man?
- What exactly is the view of people of us in our service?

Read verse 23 to verse 31

- What have you learnt from these verses?
- What have you noticed happening after they prayed?
- What do you understand about the ministry of the Holy Spirit in this last verse?

(Please take time to recap the story and listen to their answers on these two overviewing questions from the story)

Overviewing questions for the story:

- 1) What do you think was the motivational factor in their courageous stand?
- 2) What should we do as believers today to proclaim the Gospel according to God's standards?
- 3) What are some hindrances that resist the working of the Holy Spirit in us?

Conclusion:

- Sometimes, we think that the leading work of the Holy Spirit is for good times only.
- When bad things happen, we think that God is absent.
- The Holy Spirit's presence will give us the courage to go through all kinds of challenges.
- Unity in prayer is a powerful act of faith, believing that GOD will do something.
- The Holy Spirit will give us the mind of God to discern the opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- When we are filled and led by the Holy Spirit, we will speak **BOLDLY** about Jesus Christ anywhere, anytime.

End with Prayer