

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of July 30th, 2006

Acts 4; "What are we going to do with these men?"

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

The name of "Jesus" has finally done it. It has gotten them into trouble with the religious leaders. It would be interesting to know what would have happened if they had just left the name of Jesus out of their message to the people. What would have happened if they had not brought up the name, "Jesus," and had simply referred to God instead?

It's very tempting to do even in our culture, which is more accepting of references to God than to references to Jesus Christ. There is something about that name that gets to people. This week, we continue to explore why the early believers were so enamored with the name and person of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Blessings,
Scott

P.S. These weekly small-group materials will take a break during the month of August. They will return in September.

These small group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at www.fbcdavis.org.

Discussion Starters:

- **Names:** Do you know what your name means? If so, share the meaning with your group.
- **The Name of Jesus:** Have you ever known someone who was offended by hearing the name of Jesus? Why do you suppose the name carries an offense to some people?

Discussion Questions:

Introduction: Read Acts 4:1-22

1. What is the attitude of the religious leaders toward Peter and John?
2. What is their attitude toward Jesus?
3. Peter has just given a bold witness about Christ to these learned religious leaders. What has he told them about Jesus?
4. What is it about Peter's words that upset them so? Why did they forbid them from preaching in the name of Jesus?
5. As you look at Acts 4:9-12, what is the connection between the healing of the crippled man (in Acts 3) and salvation?
6. Verse 12 was as offensive in their day as it is today (perhaps more). Why is the truth in verse 12 offensive to our culture?
7. What evidence do you see of the Holy Spirit throughout this section?
8. Read Acts 4:23-31. How would you describe the prayer of the early church in these verses?
9. Why were they able to respond this way despite the persecution that Peter and John endured?

Getting Personal:

- It is tempting in our conversations with unbelievers to talk about God rather than use the specific name Jesus. Why is it essential for people to hear specifically about Jesus Christ?

Putting it into Practice:

- Is there someone in your life who needs to hear about Jesus? Pray together as a group for those individuals who need to hear about the name and work of Christ.