

# TAKEAWAY

## EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE



### Part Nine: Acts 4:23-31

*At Maybridge we want to be a church of disciples who make disciples – we hope this takeaway session encourages practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in your group. The focus of group discussion should be on becoming 'doers of the word' and not just hearers or people who enjoy a good discussion!*

#### INTRODUCTION

As we continue our journey through the book of Acts, we pick up the account of the early church after Peter and John have been released from trial before the Sanhedrin. In this session we explore how seeking christian community, trusting in God's Sovereignty and being filled with the Holy Spirit helps us to respond to challenges and stresses.

#### SHARE

- When you face stressful or threatening situations, what is usually your first response?

#### READ

**Acts 4:23-31**

#### DISCUSS

##### **God's Community**

Why do you think Peter and John immediately returned to their community after being released?

How have other Christians helped you through a difficult season in life?

What can make it difficult for people to be honest about struggles within church communities?

Why do you think our culture often encourages people to deal with problems alone?

What are some signs that someone is withdrawing from community during a difficult time? What could best be done to encourage them to stay connected?

##### **God's Sovereignty**

The disciples addressed God as '*Sovereign Lord*'. What does God's 'sovereignty' actually mean?

Which is harder for you to trust: that God is loving, or that God is in control? Why?

The sermon suggested that theology should shape our understanding of circumstances, rather than circumstances shaping our theology. Do you agree? Why or why not?

##### **God's Spirit**

Why do you think the disciples prayed for boldness rather than safety or comfort?

Have you ever found that serving others helped you cope with your own struggles? Why might that be?

Why do you think a Spirit-filled life often leads to action and service rather than simply personal comfort?

Which of the three responses—community, sovereignty, or Spirit-dependence—comes most naturally to you? Which of the three responses do you find most challenging?

How can we cultivate these habits before a crisis arrives rather than waiting until we're overwhelmed?

Jesus is the ultimate example of seeking community, trusting the Father, and serving through suffering. How does knowing that Jesus has already perfectly done what we often fail to do affect the way you approach your own shortcomings?

If you were facing a major challenge this week, how might this passage encourage you to respond differently to how you might otherwise?

**PRAY**

Pray for the challenges people are facing and for God's perspective on how to respond.