**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Disciples on Trial**

Review the video for this session.



**Engage**

Read [Acts 4:1–21](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac4.1-21).

**Consider**

There are certain things in life that we do so consistently that they just become second nature. Maybe it’s popping your knuckles or cheering for your favorite sports team. You probably couldn’t stop, even if you tried. The two men in our story today couldn’t stop telling others about Jesus, no matter how hard others tried to stop them. Peter and John even faced threats and going to prison. But they wouldn’t stop talking about Jesus and His love for everyone. People were getting saved, and even their enemies couldn’t help but notice how Peter and John had been with Jesus.

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| **QUESTION**  How would you put verses [19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac4.19) and [20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac4.20) in your own words? |

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| **QUESTION**  According to this passage, how can the Holy Spirit help us and give us power? |

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| **QUESTION**  What would it look like for you to be committed to share about Jesus with others like Peter and John did? |

**Reflect**

Notice the impact that Peter and John’s boldness had on the leaders. Even their enemies couldn’t deny that Peter and John had been with Jesus. They were relying on a power much greater than themselves. Imagine how it would change our families, schools, and friendships if we lived in a way that proved we had been with Jesus!

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| **QUESTION**  How did this story challenge you to tell others of what Jesus has done in your life? |

**Activate**

Write out the names of people in your life who don’t know Jesus. Every day this week, pray for them by name. Ask God to give you boldness and power from the Holy Spirit to be a witness to them in your words and actions.

**Pray**

Dear God, I want everyone to know You. Change me from the inside out, so that I can be a witness for You. Please give me the courage and boldness to share my faith. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 2: Pray for More**

**Engage**

Read [Acts 4:23–31](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac4.23-31).

**Consider**

Today’s devotion picks up where the last one left off. As soon as Peter and John were released from prison for preaching the good news about Jesus, they went back to their friends and had a prayer meeting. But at this prayer meeting, they weren’t praying for their own safety, for less suffering and mistreatment, or for an easier life. Instead, they asked for boldness to preach and for that to be confirmed by miracles.

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think Peter and John met with fellow believers immediately after they were released? |

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| **QUESTION**  What was the powerful response from the Holy Spirit after they prayed? |

**Reflect**

Did you catch what they prayed for? Remember, Peter and John were thrown in prison for preaching the gospel after performing miracles. As soon as they were released, they prayed for more boldness to preach the gospel and for more miracles to take place. From a worldly perspective, it sounds like these believers loved punishment, but really, they just loved Jesus. We all need a group of friends who will pray with and for us through the hard times, just as Peter and John had.

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| **QUESTION**  Are you willing to face opposition from others because you share your faith more consistently? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**  Do you have friends who you can call to pray with you when you face difficulties? |

**Activate**

We need praying friends, just like Peter and John did. Make a commitment to start praying for others in your group. Consider making a list of others in your group and then remember to pray for them by name.

**Pray**

Dear God, I know I need a community of friends who will pray for me and lift me up when life gets hard. Help me to surround myself with people who want Your best for me and who push me to grow closer to You. I love You. Amen.

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**Day 3: Shine Like Stars**

**Engage**

Read [Philippians 2:12–18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Php2.12-18).

**Consider**

Have you ever sat with a grandparent or an older person who just wanted to share some advice or teaching with you? The Book of Philippians is a letter Paul wrote to a church full of people he loved deeply. In this letter, he shared some advice and some encouragement for living the Christian life in the right way. This passage answers two big questions: How should we live our life, and what difference does it make if we do?

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| **QUESTION**  Make a list of some of the wise advice that Paul gave in this passage. |

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| **QUESTION**  What does Paul say living clean, innocent lives will help us do? |

**Reflect**

When we live a distinctly Christian life in our world today, we stand out. Paul explained that we shine like stars. The darker the night, the brighter the stars shine. As our world gets increasingly darker and more divided, we have a golden opportunity to shine the light of Jesus everywhere we go. Taking time to read the Bible and listen to what God has to say helps us grow in this area. Take a moment to reflect on the following question.

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| **QUESTION**  How does your life look different from the world around you because of Jesus? |

**Activate**

Make a chart with two columns. On one side, write out characteristics of the world around you. On the other side, write out characteristics of someone who follows Jesus. Take notes of the differences and ask God to help you live for Him.

**Pray**

Lord, I know You have called me to live differently from the world around me. Please use my life and the lives of my family and friends as a light to shine in the darkness. Amen.

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**Day 4: A Dramatic Exit**

**Engage**

Read [Acts 1:6–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac1.6-11).

**Consider**

Today’s story takes place after the climax of Jesus’ time on earth. He had already died on the Cross and risen from the dead. Then He spent some time with His disciples, giving them some final encouragement and instruction before going back to heaven to be with God the Father. In today’s Bible passage, we read His final words before being taken up to heaven.

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| **QUESTION**  What instructions did Jesus give the disciples before He left? |

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| **QUESTION**  How do you think the disciples felt after Jesus returned to heaven? |

**Reflect**

Before His death, Jesus promised the disciples that they would face trouble in this world. But they couldn’t let their troubles throw their faith off course because they had a mission to fulfill. Jesus chose to use people as the way that His message would be spread around the globe. That includes you and me, too! Because we have a mission from Jesus to be His witnesses, we must stand firm in our faith.

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| **QUESTION**  Have you received the baptism in the Holy Spirit to help you live as a witness for Jesus? If so, how has the Holy Spirit helped you? If not, are you ready to ask Him for this Baptism? |

**Activate**

Commit [Acts 1:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac1.8) to memory this week. Try to keep it in your mind as you go throughout your day, reminding yourself to be a witness for Jesus wherever you go.

**Pray**

Dear Jesus, thank You for trusting me to be part of carrying Your mission to the world. I want to fulfill my role in Your kingdom by shining brightly for You wherever I go. I ask for boldness from the Holy Spirit. In Your name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 5: Daniel–1, Lions–0**

**Engage**

Read [Daniel 6:10–27](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Da6.10-27).

**Consider**

In today’s story, we meet a man who put his life on the line just to stand firm in his faith. King Darius was persuaded into signing a law that would hurt Daniel because some officials wanted to get him in trouble. It basically said that anyone who prayed to anyone other than the king was to be thrown into a den of lions.

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| **QUESTION**  What did Daniel do as soon as he heard about the new law? |

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| **QUESTION**  How do you think Daniel felt when he was thrown into the den of lions? |

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| **QUESTION**  What was the result of Daniel’s faithfulness in this story? |

**Reflect**

It’s one thing to say that we trust in God, but it’s another thing entirely to put our life on the line. Daniel did exactly that. As a result of his commitment, the king took notice and praised God. You and I may never be threatened with death, but we do face pressures that make it easier to tone down our faith in front of others or walk away from it altogether. Daniel’s example challenges us to stand firm and to be a witness, even when all feels hopeless.

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| **QUESTION**  How does the faith you see in Daniel inspire you to live wholeheartedly for Jesus? |

**Activate**

One of the most powerful ways to share the gospel is to share your personal testimony of what God has done in your life. Write out your testimony of how God has saved you and changed your life. Practice sharing it with a friend. Then be ready to share it with others.

**Pray**

Dear God, thank You for examples like Daniel who build my faith and trust in You. Thank You for how much You have grown my faith as a Christian. Help me to stand firm in my faith. Give me a burden for my lost friends who do not follow You. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.