# EMPOWERED

## PRAYER THAT OPENS DOORS
Acts 4 (ESV)
March 3, 2024
Jon Field, Lead Pastor

## MESSAGE NOTES

*And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.* — *Acts 4:1 — 4  (ESV)*

*"… let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead — by Him this man is standing before you well."* — *Acts 4:10 (ESV)*

*"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." — Acts 4:12 (ESV)*

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. — Acts 4:13 — 14 (ESV)*

*" … for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." — Acts 4:20 (ESV)*

**Prayers that Open Doors for Reaching the Nations:**

• **We pray based on the power of God's sovereignty**

*And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, …" — Acts 4:24 (ESV)*

*" … who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against His Anointed'  …" — Acts 4:25 — 26 (ESV)*

*" … for truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place." — Acts 4:27 — 28 (ESV)*

# EMPOWERED

- **We pray for God-given boldness**

*"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to Your servants <u>to continue to speak Your word with all boldness</u>," … — Acts 4:29 (ESV)*

*" … while you stretch out Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." — Acts 4:30 (ESV)*

*" … enable Your servants to speak Your word with great boldness. Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." – Acts 4:29-30 (NIV)*

- **We pray for greater awareness of God's presence**

*And <u>when they had prayed</u>, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all <u>filled with the Holy Spirit</u> and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. — Acts 4:31 (ESV)*

# EMPOWERED

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: Share one of your favorite countries outside of the US that you would love to visit and why?

- What was one of your biggest learning points for you from Acts 4 and why?

- If you were in service on Sunday, share the Global Partner whose card was on your seat and how people can pray for them.

- Read Acts 4:12. Why are verses like Acts 4:12 so important to our faith in Christ and reaching people all over the world?

- Read Acts 4:24 — 26, which also quotes part of Psalm 2. What is something we learn from this prayer? Why is praying through Scripture such a powerful form of prayer?

- Read Acts 4:29. What might God-given boldness look like in your life?

- Part of the prayer in Acts 4 says, "…enable Your servants to speak Your word with great boldness. Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." Discuss why this prayer is so powerful and take some time to pray it out loud together as a group.

- Discuss how we can partner in greater ways with the Global Partners of ENCOUNTER. Pray for the Global Partners of ENCOUNTER.