

Pray!

From the series:: Acts... 30 Years that Changed the World – 04/28/13

BIG IDEA

God desires to use us to change the world, however it is impossible for us to accomplish this in our own strength. If we desire to be a world changing church, we must be a church that prays. How does a world changing church pray? In [Acts 4:23-31](#) we see that a world changing church:

1. **Prays first** – when challenges come and decisions need to be made, a world changing church prays first.
2. **Prays confidently** – a world changing church can pray confidently because of who God is. It's prayers reflect who God is; All powerful, all knowing, a God with a plan.
3. **Prays with conviction** – a world church prays with conviction because they know what to ask for, and what their mission is. Specifically, a world changing church is more concerned with sharing the Gospel than anything else.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the first thing you do when faced with a challenging or difficult situation? Do you keep it to yourself? Do you look for someone to talk about it with? Or, do you turn towards God in prayer? Why is it so difficult to go to God in prayer first trusting that He has exactly what we need?
2. If someone who did not know God were to listen to your prayers over the past week, what conclusions would they make about what God is like? As you consider [Acts 4:24-30](#), its clear from how they prayed that there was no confusion as to what God was like. If our prayers reveal what we believe God to be like, then based upon how you pray, what conclusions could be made about God?
3. Read [Acts 4:29](#). While there's nothing wrong with praying for personal challenges or even our day to day inconveniences, it's crucial that our prayers align with God's will for us. Despite the opposition, the early church prayed for the courage to bold with the gospel. Our context might look different, but the mission has not changed. What would it look like for you to begin praying prayers that reflect God's will for your life?
4. Its one thing to pray 'big prayers' but it wholly another thing to live in light of what you are praying. The early church lived in light of what they were praying – meaning, they prayed for boldness, and the lived like bold people. What might it look like for you to begin living out what you are praying for?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **This Sunday** – we will continue our series in Acts... next up: [Acts 4:32-37, 5:1-11](#)
- **Helping with 'Build-out' & 'Capital Expenditures'** – if you'd like to learn more about how you can contribute to helping to cover costs of the NEW GENESIS space, please visit ['the City.'](#)
- **GENESIS Work Days** – Two more work days at the NEW space!
 - [Wednesday, May 1st – 6:30PM-9:30PM](#)
 - [Saturday, May 3rd – 9AM-2PM](#)
- **Community Groups Unite** – ALL GENESIS Community groups will gather on Wednesday, May 8th for a time of food, fellowship, worship and testimonies! Learn more via ['the City.'](#)
- **SERVE** – GENESIS relies on a huge community of volunteers and we need you're help! If not already serving, please consider serving in one of the following areas: Connections, GENESIS Kids, Student Ministries, Worship, Creative, Facilities. Learn more at: genesisthejourney.com/serve