



THE INSPIRING CHURCH

small group guide

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Week 1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What has been your perception of churches that you've attended? Were they churches that "played it safe" or did they take bold steps of faith?
2. **Read Acts 2:38-41** What bold things did Peter say in this passage?
3. What keeps some Christians and churches from proclaiming a bold message against sin today?
4. We say that our purpose as a church is to inspire people to become wholehearted followers of Jesus. What are some ways that a "wholehearted follower" of Jesus behaves differently than someone who is not a Christian?
5. We say that our mission is to love God, love the church, and love the world. Can you give some practical examples of how to practice these three things?
6. An inspiring church has a radical passion. Look at Jesus' passion in Matthew 21:12-13. What can we learn from Jesus' dramatic response?
7. An inspiring church has a divine boldness. **Read Acts 4:29-31.** What was the last bold prayer you prayed to God?
8. An inspiring church has a risk-taking faith. **Read Hebrews 11:6 and Acts 15:25-25** Can you give an example of a time that you had to take a risky step of faith?

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Week 2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Acts 4:13.** Where do you think Peter and John got their boldness from?
2. An inspiring church has an unshakable devotion. **Read Acts 5:28-29.**
3. What reason did the apostles give for their disobedience?
4. What would our churches, businesses, schools, and society look like if everyone determined to obey God rather than man?
5. In what area or areas of your life could you display more unshakable devotion to Christ?
6. The inspiring church is a selfless community. **Read Acts 2:42-45; 4:32-34.**
7. Share some examples of times when you have seen the church practice this kind of selflessness.
8. Why do you think the early Church was characterized by these particular habits?
9. What impact would this kind of selflessness and generosity have on unbelievers who witness it among Christians?
10. The inspiring church has a consuming focus. **Read Acts 4:19-20; 5:41-42.**
11. We can see here some glimpses of opposition to the newly formed church, have you faced opposition as a follower of Jesus? How can we prepare ourselves for this?

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Week 2 (continued)

12. Do you fear repercussions for sharing the gospel? How can you change your perspective as the apostles did?
13. What would you say is the consuming focus of your life?