Group Discussion Guide

Ekklesia, Part 4

“We Can’t Help It!”

Observation

1. Have someone read Acts 4:29-31. What specific request did the early believers make to God when facing threats, and what happened immediately after they prayed?
2. How did Peter and John respond to the authorities’ command to stop speaking about Jesus, and what reason did they give? [50:53]
3. What practical actions did the early church prioritize after thousands were baptized (e.g., meeting locations, shared practices)? [40:07]

Interpretation

1. Why do you think the early believers focused their prayer on boldness rather than safety or protection (Acts 4:29)? How does this contrast with common modern priorities?
2. The sermon emphasizes that “ekklesia” means people, not a building. How does this redefine responsibility for individual believers in daily life? [28:57]
3. The authorities recognized Peter and John as “unschooled, ordinary men” but noted they “had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13). What does this reveal about the source of their courage and impact?

Application

1. What would change in your daily interactions if you saw yourself as part of the “ekklesia” (God’s gathered people) rather than just attending a church? How could this shift affect conversations with neighbors or coworkers? [27:22]
2. Reflect on your prayers this past week. If you began praying for boldness instead of comfort, what specific opportunities might God place in your path? [59:31]
3. The early church publicly identified with Jesus through baptism despite risks. Is there a step of public faith (e.g., baptism, sharing your story) you’ve hesitated to take? What fears or obstacles hold you back? [39:32]
4. The sermon challenges believers to create “environments that are safe, welcoming, and helpful.” How could your small group or friendships better embody this for those exploring faith? [01:05:17]
5. Peter said, “**We cannot help** speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). What specific story of God’s work in your life could you share this week with someone who needs hope?