

The Holy Spirit equips us for mission

discussion guide

based on **Acts 4:23-31** (Linked to sermon of 28/5/17)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

This was the last part of our 'What does the Holy Spirit do?' series, leading up to Pentecost.

Intro: Share with the group a time when you have seen God change a situation which you thought was impossible.

Read Acts 4:1-31 (it will help if you read the first part of the story to give some context)

1. The story of acts is full of thousands coming to faith in Christ. Why do you think even in the face of persecution, people are coming to faith?
2. Why does it matter to the council that these men are uneducated?
3. v18-19 What would your response be if someone instructed you to stay silent about the good news? Be honest!
4. v25-28. These verses show us just how low the group is feeling after the ruling of the council. How do you as a group cope when you have collectively received bad news? How might you learn from the prayer of the disciples?
5. They ask the Lord to grant them boldness and his words to speak. Share times when the Lord has spoken through you. How did you know it was the Holy Spirit who gave you those words?
6. "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." St Teresa of Avila.
In light of this passage what would living out these words look like? How might you as a group be Christ's hands and feet?

Up: Pray for each other that God would fill you afresh with his Holy Spirit. Pray the same for our church.

In: After question 6, maybe take some of those ideas and commit to them...make a plan!

Out: Where is your mission field? What do you think the Holy Spirit might be prompting you to do?