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| **SERIES** | RALLY POINT! |
| **BIBLE** | Acts 4 |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | Cooperating with God! |
| **OVERVIEW** | In a culture emphasizing individualism we declare the power of community. That creation of a ‘ family of love’ describes who we are but we don’t gather to hang out, we gather to cooperate with God!  To fulfill our mission of going and making disciples we can’t complete this on our own power, we can’t go out with our own plan, we need to first be filled by the God who empowers us in His Spirit to be sent out.  To cooperate with God means that we need to return day after day to seeking God’s power, being filled with the Holy spirit, and being empowered to go out and speak His word in BOLDNESS! |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **INTRO:**  ILL – Computer without a Plug  Our family has an old computer that our kid’s use but the battery doesn’t take charge. It works great but anytime it gets too far from the power source, the plug comes out and the computer dies.  We can’t live out our call to make disciples without abiding in the Power Source.  We are a church that cooperates with God!  **1. Source – By What Power? VV.7-14**  Peter and John are speaking to the people outside the temple and are arrested.  The religious rulers have one question:  V.7 “By what power or by what name did you do this?”  V.8 “Peter, filled with the Holy Spirits, said to them…”  V.10 “By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.”  The power we seek to cooperate with is the Power of the name of Jesus!  This is the source of all that we seek to live out. When we live connected to this source it will leave an impression!  V.13 – “When the 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*!  WITH JESUS!  **2. Spark – Charged to Speak! VV.15-23**  The temple authorities try to pressure them to be quiet!  V.17 – “But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.”  Again – power in the Name!  When we seek to live in cooperation with God’s power, we will face pushback, it’s a threat to the powers that are in place.  Peter and John will not be silenced but this spark’s them to speak more boldly.  VV.19-20  “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”  Cooperating with God leads to speaking about His word!  V.21 – “And when they had further *threatened* them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were **praising** God for what had happened.”  **3. Charged Up – Empowered by Prayer – VV.23-31**  Being released from prison, Peter and John go straight back to the family of love.  Together they seek God in prayer.  V.24 - “And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God…”  Prayer is the method that we seek to be charged up by God’s word.  The Prayer is about giving them the power to speak His word!  VV.29-30  “And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to **continue to speak your word with all boldness**, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”  The way we discover boldness to speak God’s word is seeking God together!  They are sent out to keep speaking!  V.31 - “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and **continued to speak the word of God with boldness**.”  Their direct prayer is answered!  A call to FAST for 24 hours this week to cooperate with God. |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  We find our power in the Name of Jesus because Jesus is the source of our life! |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  Begin – If you haven’t received this relationship, this power, come to the waters of baptism.  Connect – In our small groups we are going to take time to pray this week!  Grow – Join us in a 24 hour fast.  Disciple – Pray for who you need to speak boldly to this week. |