

SERIES	Acts: A Church for The People
BIBLE	Acts 3-4
TITLE	A Church That Moves
OVERVIEW	<p>In this section of Acts, we see the Church starts to MOVE OUTWARDS for the first time. Up until this point the Church has been indoors and regrouping after the death and resurrection of Christ. NOW, the Church takes a step forward with bold faith. A boldness that brings about real change in their neighborhoods. Real change in people's hearts.</p> <p>It's always easier and more comfortable to stay in your own box. To stay inside your four walls. But the call of God for His Church is to step forward. To listen to His voice. To say YES to God.</p>
SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN	<p>When you say yes to God... THE IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES POSSIBLE (Acts 3:1-26) Peter and John are walking along the road to the temple, like they have done so many times, but this time something different happens. They hear the Spirit whispering to them: heal that man on the ground who cannot walk. Now... If it was you or me, we would ignore that voice and keep walking. Who wants to yank someone out of a wheelchair only to have the person fall to the ground? BUT Peter and John respond YES to God. They allow the Spirit's power to bring healing. What was impossible becomes possible because they were obedient to the leading of God. And not only that, but inside the very temple where Jesus was condemned only a few weeks ago, they now have an opportunity to share the gospel... where thousands get saved!</p> <p>When you say yes to God... PERSECUTION BECOMES OPPORTUNITIES (Acts 4:1-22) The religious leaders don't like seeing the move of God, but they don't know what to do with it. They lock Peter and John up and wait until the next day to interrogate them. They're trying to intimidate them. To make them feel afraid. But as soon as Peter and John are given a platform to speak, the gospel comes flowing out. And the leaders are so intimidated by the power that was flowing out of them, and the clear reality that it was God in them ("these men had been with Jesus"), that though they threaten Peter and John, they cannot do anything to stop them. They end up letting them go unharmed. The people were praising God so loudly that even the religious leaders were too terrified to do anything. What seemed like persecution was actually God's opportunity for the gospel to move forward!</p> <p>When you say yes to God... YOU ALWAYS WANT MORE (Acts 4:23-31) I think this is one of the most powerful testimonies that God was moving the church forward. Despite spending the night in jail, despite threats of further bodily harm, despite warnings and fear, THE CHURCH PRAYS FOR MORE! Give us more boldness! Give us more healings! These experiences moved the Church into a deeper reliance on God through prayer. And when God saw their faith, He brought even more of His Spirit upon them. They were filled with an even deeper level of boldness.</p>
GOSPEL	In this passage alone the gospel is shared twice by Peter and James to two different audiences. Capture that energy and use it to speak with boldness to your congregation!
NEXTSTEPS	Challenge the congregation to pray for boldness this week. To say yes to God's leading.