

## **Small Group Study Guide- After the Potluck (Acts 4:1-31)**

*Opening Question:* Compare the Maccabean Period's formation of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes and Zealots to modern day denominationalism. Why is it easy draw such lines and forms such groups?

### **1. Persecution encountered. (Acts 4:1-4)**

- Take some time as a group to pray for missionaries. Examples of Grace supported missionaries: The Hills (Japan), Schroeders (Russia), Fosters (France) and Jane Vandenberg (West Africa).
- Why were the religious leaders disturbed that Peter and John were teaching in the temple?
- Read Romans 10:17 and discuss how one comes to faith. Compare this verse with much of our approach in modernity, discuss.

### **2. The response to persecution. (Acts 4:5-22)**

- How do we tend to respond to persecution?
- What is the biblical response to persecution?
- What 4 things do we learn from Peter and John?
  - Humility, boldness, intimacy with God and obedience to God. Discuss where you see Peter and John live these out in Ch. 4 and discuss how these qualities must exist within the life of the church.
- Discuss the two ways Peter drew the line in the sand while teaching the gospel. (Chapter 3 and Chapter 4)

### **3. The product of persecution. (Acts 4:23-31)**

- We learned of four godly responses to persecution and the correct response will also produce a Spirit-filled life. What two godly examples to Peter and John give us?
  - How did they praise God? (Also see Matt. 5:10-12)
  - How did they persevere? (Acts 4:29)
- Amidst persecution are we will to keep a godly response? Will our challenges produce praise and perseverance?