

### Apply It:

1. Peter and John were filled with the same Holy Spirit who lives in us today. In what ways does this thought encourage, challenge, or inspire you?
2. At the end of his message, Gabe emphasized the need for humility. Are there areas where you have allowed pride to grow recently? How can you surrender this pride to God?
3. As a group, take a few minutes to recognize Jesus' authority in your lives. You can do this through a discussion, through a time of prayer, or by doing both!

Next Week: Luke 17:11-19, Thankful

### Prayer Requests:



Abundant Life  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Growth Group Homework

For the week of 9/15/2019

### Talk About It:

- 1) Was there any part of Sunday's message that jumped out to you as being especially surprising, confusing, interesting, or encouraging?
- 2) Gabe discussed God's heart for honest seekers, those who *want* to do God's will. Define 'honest seeker.' How is this different than someone who is a skeptic?
- 3) How have you seen God honor your own 'seeking' throughout your journey with Him? Plan to share an example or story with your group.
- 4) **Read Jeremiah 29:13.** What do God's words to Israel reveal about His heart for us? What do you think it means to seek God with all your heart?

## Sunday's Sermon:

*Authority to Teach, John 7:14-24*

Coming on the heels of last week's passage, where Jesus' conflict with the Pharisees comes to a head when they attribute His good works to the power of Satan, we looked at another passage where Jesus' ministry is questioned. This time, He is dismissed by those in Jerusalem because He lacks the formal rabbinical training that was widely expected of Jewish religious leaders. Jesus, of course, defends His authority to teach.

1. Where does Jesus' authority to teach come from, and how did Jesus reveal this authority during His earthly ministry?
2. Jesus' plea is that we would look beyond outward appearance, so we can judge with right judgement (v.24). What kind of things can we find by looking beyond appearance?
3. What does it look like to judge with the 'right judgment' Jesus mentions at the end of this verse? Can you think of an example?

## Study It:

Many religious leaders rejected Jesus simply because He did not meet the rabbinical academic standards of His day. He responded by saying His authority to teach comes from God, and Gabe briefly mentioned another place in Scripture that picks up on this same theme. Peter and James, like Jesus, lacked formal rabbinical training and were therefore rejected by the religious establishment. But, as we will see, this certainly doesn't disqualify them in God's eyes.

4. **Read Acts 4:1-22.** Write down some of your initial observations and thoughts from this passage. Note the context in Acts and the main

characters in the passage. What key words, phrases, or verses jumped out to you? How do you see God working in this story?

5. Look at v.1-3. Why do the religious leaders arrest Peter and John? **Read 2 Timothy 3:12.** How does this verse apply to the situation Peter and John found themselves in?
6. The church has always faced persecution, though to varying degrees. How do we see the truth of 2 Timothy 3:12 play out in the world today? What encouragement can we take from the presence and reality of persecution?
7. Look at v.7-12. The religious leaders ask by what power Peter and John performed this miracle, and Luke tells us they were filled with the Holy Spirit. How do you see God's power on display in Peter's response?
8. Look at v.13-14. What stands out as remarkable about Peter and John to the religious leaders? What lessons does this provide for us in times when we face persecution?
9. Look at v.18-21. What encouragement can we take from the end of this story? How does God show up in this story in ways that we might be able to look for in our own lives?