

UNLEASHED!

DAY 6— Boldly Stand for Christ and Follow Him Fully

Acts 2:14; 4:1–31

Time Alone with God

Prayer

Explore the Word

Read Acts 1:13; 2:1–5, 11. Was Peter in the upper room? What did the Holy Spirit do through him and the others in the room at Pentecost?

Insights from Ellen White:

The scene is one full of interest. Behold the people coming from all directions to hear the disciples witness to the truth as it is in Jesus. They press in, crowding the temple. Priests and rulers are there, the dark scowl of malignity still on their faces, their hearts still filled with abiding hatred against Christ, their hands uncleansed from the blood shed when they crucified the world's Redeemer. They had thought to find the apostles cowed with fear under the strong hand of oppression and murder, but they find them lifted above all fear and filled with the Spirit, proclaiming with power the divinity of Jesus of Nazareth. They hear them declaring with boldness that the One so recently humiliated, derided, smitten by cruel hands, and crucified, is the Prince of life, now exalted to the right hand of God. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 42)

Prayer Focus

Pray for holy boldness to be who the Holy Spirit has called you to be!

Family/Friend Circle

Connect Activity

Ask your family/friend group, "When and where do you feel the most confident to speak?" Give everyone a chance to share. Today we will explore Holy Spirit-led confidence.

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Explore the Word

Read Acts 2:14. Considering that Peter had publicly declared he did not know Jesus about seven weeks before Pentecost, what surprising steps did Peter take when filled with the Holy Spirit?

Insights from Ellen White:

They could speak the name of Jesus with assurance; for was He not their Friend and Elder Brother? Brought into close communion with Christ, they sat with Him in heavenly places. With what burning language they clothed their ideas as they bore witness for Him! Their hearts were surcharged with a benevolence so full, so deep, so far-reaching, that it impelled them to go to the ends of the earth, testifying to the power of Christ. They were filled with an intense longing to carry forward the work He had begun. They realized the greatness of their debt to heaven and the responsibility of their work. Strengthened by the endowment of the Holy Spirit, they went forth filled with zeal to extend the triumphs of the cross. The Spirit animated them and spoke through them. The peace of Christ shone from their faces. They had consecrated their lives to Him for service, and their very features bore evidence to the surrender they had made. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 46)

Prayer Focus

Pray for the Holy Spirit to free each person in your family and friendship circle to be able to share the good news of Jesus with anyone.

Church Family

Welcome

Worship in Prayer

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

Praise:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Revelation 1 is filled with many names for Jesus. Praise Jesus for one of His names found in this chapter.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of praise.

Confess:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Revelation 1:5 (last part). Invite group members to take private time for confession. Find your forgiveness in Jesus, the One “who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood.”
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of confession.

Ask:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Ask God the Father in the name of Jesus, who is “alive forevermore” (Rev. 1:18), to send the Holy Spirit to bless His Word.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

Testify

(SMALL GROUPS)

Form groups of two or three within your small groups. Ask and answer: “What did God help you do with yesterday’s 24-Hour Challenge?”

(Yesterday’s 24-Hour Challenge: Pray daily to receive the fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. If possible, go to your knees today and cry out to God for this precious Gift! Repent of anything that the Holy Spirit convicts you to leave behind. Read Acts 2:14 and 4:1–31 in preparation for tomorrow.)

Connect Activity

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Would you stand up by yourself in a room full of people IF—
(stand if the statement is YES for you)

- everyone standing would be given a free airline ticket to anywhere in the world
- the first one to stand would be given \$1,000
- the first one to stand would be given three minutes to say anything to everyone in the room

Today let’s explore what the Word says about risking all to stand up for Jesus Christ.

Worship in Word

(SMALL GROUPS)

1. Read Acts 4:1–13. What are two reasons Peter was so fearless for Christ? (Notice Acts 4:8, 13.)
2. Read Acts 4:21–31. What did the believers pray for?

Insights from Ellen White:

Those present who remembered the part that Peter had acted at the trial of his Master, flattered themselves that he could now be intimidated by the threat of imprisonment and death. But the Peter who denied Christ in the hour of His greatest need was impulsive and self-confident, differing widely from the Peter who was brought before the Sanhedrin for examination. Since his fall he had been converted. He was no longer proud and boastful, but modest and self-distrustful. He was filled with the Holy Spirit, and by the help of this power he was resolved to remove the stain of his apostasy by honoring the name he had once disowned. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 62, 63)

Prayer Focus

LEADER TO EVERYONE: With your small group, pray for the Holy Spirit to help each person in your group to speak the Word of God with holy boldness and the great love of God.

Appeal

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Who here tonight is convicted that fear stands in the way of sharing the good news of Jesus with family, friends, classmates, neighbors, work associates, or strangers? Come and join me in praying for the holy boldness of the Holy Spirit to share Jesus anywhere, anytime, at any cost.

24-Hour Challenge

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Ask God for the courage of Christ to share with others what He is doing in your life. Pray. Ask God to lead you by the Holy Spirit to someone who needs to hear your own story of what Jesus is doing in your life. Share Jesus with that person! In preparation for tomorrow, read Acts 2:17, 18; 4:24–31.