ACTS
EMPOWERED FOR MISSION

Living in the Tension
October 10, 2021

Reflect + Discuss

- When you experience tension/discomfort, what tends to be your initial reaction? Do you have a go-to method for easing tension after a hard day?

- Read Acts 4:1-31 and discuss any/all of the following:
  - What contrasts or patterns stand out to you from the text?
  - What questions do you have?
  - Why are the religious leaders disturbed by Peter and John's teaching?
  - Does re-framing Peter and John's actions/words as confident (as opposed to courageous) change the way you think about this passage?

- Reread Acts 4:12. Have you struggled with the Bible's exclusive claim that faith in Jesus is the only way to heaven? What misunderstandings could come from thinking of heaven as a fun-filled paradise rather than the place where Jesus reigns as king?

- Pastor Charles spoke about living in the tension of the "already and the not yet." In what ways do you see the Kingdom of God already here and in what ways is the Kingdom not yet here?

- We are formed and shaped by culture but are also called to adopt the values and ethics of the Kingdom of God. When do you feel an internal tension within yourself about this, or an external tension with the culture around you? Do you have Christ-followers in your life you can turn to as you navigate these tensions?

Dig Deeper

- Check out Pastor Charles' sermon on Psalm 2 from the "If I'm Honest" series in August 2020.

- Read Psalm 118, keeping in mind that it was a song used as a processional for people going to the temple. Does this context provide any new insights as you read the passage?

Pray

- Ask God for wisdom in navigating the "already and not yet" nature of the Kingdom of God. Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance in engaging with the world around you with confidence and clarity.

Next Steps

- Set aside some time this week to write down the different tensions you experience as a follower of Christ. Then, meet with another Christ-follower to talk through your list and share your experiences, questions, and doubts.