# Acts 4:1-22 LS4 Inspiration to defend the good news

# When do you defend your beliefs and when do you let things go?

## To know which battles to face and how to face them we need:

### The inspiration of the Spirit and

### The wisdom of Solomon

## The debate: how does God work in the world and who does God choose to use

### The Pharisees & the Sadducees differed greatly

#### We believe in Moses and the prophets and God intervening in history (P) **OR** God only spoke through Moses (S)

#### We believd that there is a heaven and that people can aspire to it (P) **OR** When you die, you die & there is no resurrection of the dead

#### We are awaiting a Messiah who will put things right with God and the world (P) **OR** the Messianic times have already started (S)

### It was inevitable that a clash would come

#### According to both P & S ‘Christians’ were deluded and heretics

# God gives the power

## He works through humble people

### Those who want nothing more than to be a vessel of His purposes

### Those who reject the glory and satisfaction for being right

# God offers a rescue through Christ

## God will clean you up

### You’ll be given the chance get things right as a servant of God

### You’ll be given the opportunity to serve others in the name of Christ

### You’ll begin to see your life, your attitudes, your values transformed as you seek to honour Christ in all things

## Test of progress: People will praise God because of you

### Then you will be questioned…

## We do this by the power of Jesus

### He moves from healing to salvation: No-one else, No other name

### “We’re not theologically trained, but stuff still happens through Jesus!”

# God wants to use you as an example

## You’ll be asked why

### Rely on Him to lead you

#### ‘I do this because of Jesus… let me tell you what He’s done for me…”

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Choosing your battles

## How far do you agree that you have to choose your battles carefully?

### What happens if you don’t do battle ever?

### What happens if you join the battle on every front?

## How do you decide which battles to fight?

### With your family

### With your community/neighbours

### With your colleagues at work

### With people in the church

#### Give examples to explain

# Current common beliefs

## How are these current common beliefs expressed?

### Everyone goes to heaven

### All religions are equally true, no religion is completely right

### Love is God

### God doesn’t exist/ isn’t interested in us

## When and how have you tried to take these on?

# God and humility

## How would you define humility?

### If we need humility to enter the Kingdom, why do we need it to grow in the kingdom?

### Who are the people you would name as ‘humble’ – how do they show humility?

## ‘God cannot clean you up if you are not humble’

### How far do you agree with this and why?

## The test of growth: People with praise God because of you

### How far do you agree that this is a good test of growth?

### To what extent can God point to you and say ‘Look what I can do’?

#### What stories do you need to tell to allow that to happen?