



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

Goal

God has amazing things in store for us, but are we ready to take hold of them? Explore what happens when we get *Bold*. This journey will help you unpack the Sunday messages and discover where God may be calling you to take a step of faith.

At the beginning of each gathering take a few minutes to connect with one another and get updated on the week. Then the discussion questions will begin with a few reflection notes about the message and progress into a discussion of the biblical text. Finally, there is a concluding prayer, which can be read aloud in the group after having discussed prayer requests from those attending.

Introduction

02/12/2017

Faith in the book of Acts is not a faith in the good of humanity, hope in all things turning out ok or in individual self-improvement. Bold faith results from being with a bold God.

Discussion Questions

1. When you think about faith what words come to mind?
2. What are some characteristics of boldness?
3. Can you share a time when you were bold?
4. How would you summarize the main point of Derek's message this past Sunday? Which parts were most challenging?

Read aloud Acts 4:1-22

***Background to the Text:** This event likely takes place just over 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus, at a time Christian's call Pentecost and Jews celebrate a festival called Shavuot (a celebration of the giving of the Law to Moses on Sinai; sometime around the year A.D. 30). The apostles have experienced and witnessed the resurrection of Jesus from death and in Acts 2 been given the Holy Spirit (cf. John 14:15-17; Acts 1:8). Acts 4-7 represent a challenging period for the apostles as they begin spreading the message of Jesus in and around Jerusalem. In Acts 4:1-22, Peter and John have just spoken about Jesus in Solomon's Portico (a place on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem) and healed a crippled beggar. Their message creates tension with the Jewish authority who are seeking to maintain control over Jerusalem. This elite class of Jewish rulers have attempted to keep the message of Jesus quiet, even to the point of silencing the movement's leader. Now Jesus' followers carry on his message and face the same resistance that Jesus encountered.*



5. What characteristics did the priests, temple guard and Sadducees identify in Peter and John?
6. Why were they so bold? Why was this message so important?
7. Could you summarize their message? How has their message impacted your life?
8. How does faith in Jesus change our spiritual journey and/or our daily lives?
9. In what areas of your faith or spiritual journey would you like to see more boldness?
10. Is there a step of faith that God might be calling you to take?

Concluding Thoughts

In Joshua 1:9, God commands Joshua to “be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” This command is both encouraging and concerning. Boldness is often discovered and developed through periods of challenge or struggle, but the reward is great (cf. Matthew 5:10-11). This week, begin praying that God would strengthen you for the journey ahead and remind you of His enduring faithfulness.

Prayer Requests

Take a few minutes to go around the room and ask for prayers. Write these down as they are being shared. Additionally, challenge people to begin praying about the step of boldness God may be calling them to during this series. Finally, pray together. You can pray the prayer below or your own prayer that incorporates the requests represented in the group.

Closing Prayer

Lord, I thank you that you are God on the move who calls me along on the journey. Open my eyes to the things that you are calling me into. Grant me boldness that I might endure the challenges I face and remind me of your promise to be with me wherever that journey leads. May I experience the richness and reward of having completed the task for which you have called me to. In Jesus' name, Amen.