

Discussion Guide

Discussion Guides accompany the weekly message.

Opening Activity:

What's something bold or risky you tried—big or small—where you didn't know how it would turn out?

Read:

Acts 4:13-22

Acts 3:1-10

Acts 4:27-31

1 Timothy 4:12

John 10:11-16

Discussion Questions:

1. Ancient leaders used a person's confidence as proof of their teacher—bold speech was a cultural giveaway of who shaped you (Acts 4:13). In your own life, where have you noticed that real boldness only showed up because you had been with Jesus?
2. Most rabbis considered fishermen "unqualified," yet Jesus built the early church on men the culture overlooked (Acts 4:13). How does knowing Peter and John were regular, untrained men challenge your excuses about speaking up for Jesus?
3. In Acts, "boldness" (*parrēsia*) was a political word meaning public, fearless, truth-telling—even under threat (Acts 4:8, 29-31). When have you felt the Holy Spirit give you courage you didn't naturally have?
4. Early believers risked prison for speaking about Jesus—Roman law allowed charges simply for causing "public disturbance" (Acts 4:18-20). Where is God asking you to be bold right now, even if it risks your comfort or reputation?
5. Studies show repeated relational rhythms literally reshape neural pathways—regular time with Jesus shapes spiritual confidence the same way (Acts 4:13). What daily rhythms help you stay close enough to Jesus that boldness becomes natural instead of forced?
6. Where in your life do you sense God calling you to be bolder in your faith, relationships, or conversations?
7. Peter and John were "ordinary men"—how does that truth encourage or challenge you in your own calling?
8. Which area of your life most needs God-given boldness this week?
9. Who is God prompting you to speak to, encourage, or reach out to with greater courage?

Challenge for the Week:

Ask God each day to "make me bold," then take one courageous step—big or small—to speak truth, show love, or live out your faith with fearless confidence.