

Bold

Introduction

Leader Check-in

What are you hoping to gain from this study?

In what ways do you think you will be challenged? Encouraged? Stretched?

Discover

What comes to your mind when you think of boldness?

Read Acts 4:1-22. Take turns reading each paragraph of Scripture.

- What stands out to you about this story?
- How are Peter and John described in verse 13?
- What's the response of the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

Read Acts 4:31. Even after the flogging/beating how did the first church respond to the persecution?

In your opinion, what would it take for the people in the church today to be this bold?

Fully Own

Read Acts 4:29-31. How would you compare and contrast the attitudes of the disciples of Jesus to the attitudes of the Pharisees?

Go around the group and summarize this story in your own words (make sure to note what you think the key elements are).

Share with the group a time when you were bold for Jesus. Share a time when you wimped out in the face of an obstacle. What was the major difference between your two stories?

Make a list of reasons why people in the church today are NOT bold for Jesus. (Here's one to start!)

1. Lack of biblical knowledge
- 2.
- 3.

Challenge

Develop some group goals for being bold in your faith that you plan on reaching in the next 6 weeks.

Bold Compelled

Leader Check-in

In what ways were you bold this week? In what ways did you fail to be bold?

How did you feel after you acted in boldness? How did you feel after failing to be bold?

Where are you with your group goals established in Week 1?

Discover

Read **John 3:16**. What are the most important words in this verse? Explain this verse using your own words.

What are some things that usually compel us to be bold in our faith? Guilt? Fear? Duty? God's Love?

Read **Psalm 136**. According to this Psalm, what is Israel's motivation for living in a way that pleases God? How would you compare Israel's understanding of God's love as motivation to our understanding of God's love as motivation? What is different? What is similar?

Read **Matthew 5:43-48**. How was Jesus's teaching on love different than the common teachings of that day?

Fully Own

Let's get personal! Talk about a time in your life when you were moved by God's Love to go and love another person who might be considered an enemy. How did you feel after that?

Why is it sometimes so hard to boldly love people? Why is it sometimes so hard to be bold in our faith?

Read **1 John 4:19**. What would happen if this verse became a reality in your life?

How could you develop a plan to apply this verse in your daily life? What are some simple things you could do to live out the truth in 1 John 4:19?

Challenge

Put 1 John 4:19 in a place where you will see it every day. Meditate on this verse every time you see it. Allow God's Word to speak truth to your heart and then act in obedience when the Spirit urges/nudges you in bold directions.



Bold Empowered

Leader Check-in

How are you doing with your goals established in Week 1?

How was this week different after having 1 John 4:19 plastered all over your daily life?

Discover

What kind of role does the Holy Spirit play in your life? What do you think the Holy Spirit is doing today in your community, workplace, and home?

Read John 16:5-15. What stands out to you the most about this passage? What can be learned about the Holy Spirit from this passage?

Why do you think Jesus said, “It is for your benefit that I go away?”

Develop a theory as to why it is better for the Holy Spirit to be inside you rather than for Jesus to be standing next to you.

Fully Own

Read Acts 6:8-10. What can we learn about Stephen from this passage? Consider the fact that if you believe in Jesus as the Son of God, you are filled with the same exact grace and power.

What would our lives look like if we tapped in to that grace and power like Stephen did?

How could you improve your daily life and your self-disciplines so that you could live with more boldness?

What could possibly hold you back from being empowered by the Holy Spirit?

Challenge

Make a list of ways you can help remind yourself of the Holy Spirit’s empowerment.

1. Memorize John 16:7
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Bold Unchained



Leader Check-in

Did you rely on the Holy Spirit's empowerment this week? Explain why or why not?

How were you bold this week? In what ways did fear impact you this week?

Discover

Create a list of external barriers which prevent Christians from sharing their faith in modern times. Some examples are money and politics.

Read Acts 5:17-21; 6:8-10; and 8:1-3. What external barriers did the first group of Christians have in their life according to these verses?

What motivated these people to push beyond these external barriers and be bold in their faith?

Read Mark 11:22-24. What is the theme or meaning to Jesus's teachings in this passage? How might it effect the apostles and Christians later in the book of Acts?

Fully Own

Ultimately, why do external barriers stop us from being bold?

Jesus taught us that we have power beyond anything this world can throw at us. Compare and contrast a lifestyle of boldness because of this power with a lifestyle of fear because of the external barriers.

Read Philippians 1:21-30. How can we apply these verses to our lives today?

How would you solve the problem of fear hindering us from being bold? What steps would you implement in your own life to solve this problem?

Challenge

Evaluate your own life and pinpoint your reasons for NOT being bold. Make a list of these reasons and commit to praying that God would work through your fears.

The goal is NOT to eradicate fear, but to allow God to work through you in spite of your fear.

Bold Undefeated



Leader Check-in

How did fear impact your week?

Where you able to see God work in spite of your fear? Tell any stories of boldness you might have experienced because of God's power.

Discover

Last week we discussed external barriers, this week let's discuss the internal issues of the heart. What are some internal struggles that stop Christians from being bold? (Examples: fear, apathy, anger...)

Read 1 John 1:5-2:2. What internal barriers can you identify in this passage?

Fear is often brought to light during this discussion, but what do we really have to fear living in the safest country, in the safest cities, and in the safest houses? Get specific! What's really stopping you?

Read 1 John 2:28-3:6. What happens to us if we remain in Jesus according to these verses? What should our behavior look like?

Fully Own

Think about this truth: God doesn't expect perfection from you, He only asks for your obedience. In what ways can you obey God right now?

Do an analysis of your strengths and weaknesses and make a "two-column" list of them.

Develop a summary statement on how you can be bold by maximizing what you're good at and minimizing what you're bad at.

Read 1 John 5:18-21. What internal idols do you need to guard yourself? What future challenges do you think you will face in your pursuit of boldness?

Challenge

The only way you can play to your strengths is to first be aware of them. Talk with a close friend this week (who you trust) and ask them to honestly give their opinion on what are your strengths and weaknesses. Then ask them to help you develop a strategy for being bold by maximizing those strengths.

Bold Ignited



Leader Check-in

Did you talk with a close friend this week about your strengths and weaknesses? How did the conversation go?

Were you able to be bolder by playing to your strengths? Explain.

Discover

Read **Hebrews 10:19-25**. What do these verses have to say about boldness? What do these verses have to say about sharing in each other's victories?

When you hear a success story, does it encourage you or demotivate you? Explain your answer.

Read **Hebrews 11:1-40**. What can we learn from these stories of boldness and faith?

Develop 2-3 theories as to why success stories can be so motivating and encouraging?

Read **Hebrews 12:3**. Who are we supposed to remember according to this verse? Jesus is the greatest success story of all-time; what would happen if Christians began to fully rely on Him and lean on His successes?

Fully Own

Share with the group your most recent success story. Respond to other's stories by sharing how you feel after hearing about their success.

In what ways can we be more supportive of each other's efforts to be bold?

Develop a strategy for sharing your success stories with your Life Group this week. A group text? A Facebook group? A Snapchat story? A phone call?

Read **Hebrews 10:24-25** again. What truths from these verses can we apply to our daily lives today?

Challenge

Commit **Hebrews 10:24-25** to memory. Meditate on this verse whenever you're feeling weak and alone. Let it challenge and convict you to lean in to the relationships God has established in your life. Share with others in your successes and your failures.



Bold Challenged

LIFE 
GROUPS

Leader Check-in

Can you recite for the group Hebrews 10:24-25?

How did you follow through on your strategies for sharing success stories with others?

Discover

Read **Luke 18:18-23**. What was the response of the rich young ruler when Jesus called him to step out in boldness?

Read **Luke 19:1-10**. What was Zacchaeus's response to Jesus's calling?

Compare and contrast the two responses to Jesus's calling. What was similar and what was different? Where does boldness come in to play?

What are some other stories in the Bible where people responded to Jesus's calling with boldness? What are some stories where people responded with cowardice?

Fully Own

What is God calling you to do right now? Are you responding with boldness or cowardice?

Read **John 16:33**. In light of this verse, how should we be responding to what God has called us to do?

Skim through John 17. What can you gather from this chapter that will help you in your response to God's calling?

Think about how Jesus responded with boldness to the Father's Will; using your imagination what might have been Jesus's mindset when the Father called Him to do unbelievable things?

Challenge

Make a choice today! As a group, develop a covenant/agreement to be bold when the Holy Spirit calls you to do something unbelievable. Have everyone in the group sign it and commit to upholding the standard put forth in the covenant.

Bold Determined



Leader Check-in

Did you uphold the covenant this week? Why or why not?

What was most difficult about daily responding to God's calling in boldness?

Discover

Read **Nehemiah 1:1-4**. What is happening in these verses? What stands out to you as most important?

Read **Nehemiah 2:1-5**. How is Nehemiah being bold in this passage? What about this passage shows you Nehemiah's determination?

At what point does being bold come down to simple will-power? Do you think that in spite of our fears and the opposition we can still "force" ourselves to be bold? How?

Read **Nehemiah 6:15-16**. What is the result of Nehemiah's determination and boldness?

Fully Own

How would you solve the issue of boldness in the Christian community?

In your opinion, what would happen if 25% of the world's Christians began living out a bold faith? What about 50%? What about 100%?

What would it take for you to determine to live a bold lifestyle for Jesus? How can you live out that determination?

Read **Acts 4:13**. How can you pray boldly? How can you go boldly? How can you give boldly? How can you advocate boldly? When people look at you, do you think they see a person who has been with Jesus? Why or why not?

Challenge

Begin to apply to your life the 4 steps to determination as talked about in our video.

1. Pray consistently
2. Go constantly
3. Give generously
4. Advocate for the Mission