

Becoming

Becoming Bold (March 1st, 2020)

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- As a leader you **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-5 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank Jesus for coming to this world and showing us the ways in which we were called to live a life of boldness! Pray that the Holy Spirit would convict us of Jesus' resurrection and remind us to remain in prayer with Him as we go throughout life's most difficult situations. Finally, thank Jesus for being bold by stepping down from eternity and going to the cross so that we may have eternal life with the Father!

Discussion: (30 minutes)

What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Charles led us into the third week of our Community Group series titled *Becoming*. Pastor Charles encouraged us to become more like Jesus by growing in courage and boldness. We were specifically directed to a story in Acts 4:5-13 where Peter and John proclaimed the message of Jesus with boldness before the Pharisees, the same group of people who put Jesus to death. First, Pastor Charles retraces the steps of Peter and John and emphasizes the boldness that Jesus modeled while they were his *apprentices*. In this story, we see how Peter and John grew in boldness by remembering the cross, abiding in Jesus, and prayed to the Holy Spirit for more courage.

“The boldness of Jesus puts superheroes to shame!” – Pastor Charles Homer

Suggested Questions

Check-In: *Matthew 11:28-30* – Last week, our discussion revolved around developing the traits of gentleness and humility in our lives. Gentleness was presented as strength under control while humility was described as a complete and selfless dependency on God. In what ways were you able to practice gentleness and humility over the past week? What did this week’s successes or failures reveal about your relationship with Jesus?

Study Tip: Do you feel unprepared to share the gospel with others? One common theme that follows the apostles throughout the book of Acts found in our key text this week is the idea of *parresia* (*παρρησία*). This Greek word that is traditionally translated as boldness is consistently used as the apostles open their mouths to share their testimony openly, with supreme confidence, frankly, and concealing nothing. Here are the references of all the times this word is used in the book of Acts:

(Acts 2:29; 4:13, 29, 31; 9:27–28; 13:46; 14:3-4; 18:26; 19:8; 26:26; 28:31)

As you walk through this study guide, keep in mind that the apostles were ordinary, **untrained** people. At the center of this week’s passage, pay attention to how the religious leaders question the apostle’s “authority”, but are astonished when these uneducated men share what they know with boldness.

- **Objective #1: Explore some experiences and cast a vision of boldness in your life**

Primary Texts: John 10:10; 14:6 – Pastor Charles begins his sermon by reflecting on a common misconception in the Christian life. He points out that following Jesus is not only a hope for a fuller life in eternity after death, but also the way towards life transformation in the here and now by becoming more like Jesus. What are some of your life experiences with the trait of boldness and trying to practice it as a follower of Jesus? If Pastor Charles is right and we actually can become more like Jesus in this area of boldness starting today, how do you think your life would look different?

- **Objective #2: Survey some scriptural examples of Jesus’ boldness in scripture.**

Primary Texts: Romans 8:29; 2 Timothy 1:6-8 – Next, Pastor Charles digs directly into some of the numerous examples of Jesus that reveal his bold character. What are some of the stories of Jesus that you can think of that reveal his bold character? What are the reasons that this specific story has stood out to you?

Supporting Texts: (Incarnation) Lk. 2:8-21; (Crucifixion) Phil. 2:1-11; (Temptation) Matt. 4:1-11; (Confrontation) Matt. 23:1-12; (Outcasts) Mk. 2:13-17; (Inclusive) Jn. 10:14-16, Gal. 3:28; (Storm) Mk. 4:38-40

- **Objective #3: Focus on one area that will help you become bold like Jesus this week.**

Primary Texts: Acts 4:5-13 – Finally, Pastor Charles offers three different focal points that Peter and John used to become more like Jesus in the area of boldness. **1)** Always remember the resurrection **2)** Remain close to Jesus **3)** Pray for more courage. Which of these three areas requires more attention in your life and how would you like your group to help you grow in that specific area?

Closing Prayer: (5-15 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank Jesus for being the way, the truth, and the life in our world today! Ask that the Holy Spirit would reveal to us the depth of what it means to live boldly in His power! Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to transform our minds so that we would continue to recognize our own faulty beliefs and worldviews that drive our progress toward becoming more like Jesus!

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-Follow Along with our Pray Podcast: For the next 30 days, our challenge for you is to step into the prayer movement around 3Crosses by listening to our [Pray Podcast](#).

-Further Reading and Exploration! *Read John 14-17:* The upper room discourse is loaded with many great final sayings and teachings from Jesus. As you read these passages, try and keep track of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit's relationship with one another and how God affects our lives. In addition, try and identify what Jesus ultimately wants for your life!

- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week! Pray that the members of your group would be bold as they share the message of Jesus to others!

- Join us for our Community Group Meet-Up on April 19th, 2020! If you have any questions about Community Groups, feel free to email AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org