



*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

02/26/2017

Bold faith means a change in lifestyle. However, this lifestyle is not necessarily the easy route. In fact, Jesus warned that it is often the more difficult path. Faith and prayer need to be bold, but if we quit before we reach the end, their power is greatly diminished if not emptied.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some things that you are proud to have quit? What are some that maybe you wish you hadn't quit or left incomplete?
2. If you are a Christian, were there any moments in your faith journey that you felt like quitting? Share if you feel comfortable doing so.
3. If you are not a Christian or are unsure of your faith, why do you think some Christian's remain faithful in the face of challenges and doubts?
4. What things prove most helpful when the will to continue is weak—whether regarding faith, work, relationships or other areas of life?

Background to the Text:

Apostles are those who have seen the full picture—Jesus ministry, death, and resurrection. During his ministry started out confused. At his death, they embraced defeat. At his resurrection, they discovered a new passion. But now they're left to continue life with all of its challenges, doubts, conflicts and discouragements. They are left without a leader and his parting comments communicate the expectation that they would likely encounter a similar journey of struggle, conflict and challenge. As the apostle encounter their own tension and



challenge, instead of praying for escape like before, they pray for boldness. Their prayer and faith together enables them to endure.

This will be the second and third time that they are arrested in a matter of days, humiliated and flogged. But their response is confident and they finish strong.

Read Acts 5:12-42

5. Why do you think the early church leaders had such incredible tenacity in the face of tremendous persecution?

6. When reading scripture, we can usually ask two guiding questions: 1) What does this text tell us about God? And, 2) What does it tell us about humanity?

How would you answer these two questions for this text?

7. Why did others dare not join the apostles in Solomon's Colonnade?

8. Do you think you would have joined the apostles? Why or why not?

9. Acts 2:42-47 was described not as a recipe for success but essential for survival. Why did these seem so important to that community? Where do they rank today?

10. Out of the list, which ones do you need to focus on that will help you take bold steps of faith in your journey?

Concluding Thoughts

Faith and prayer set the foundation and provide strength for the journey, but if we quit, if we give up due to challenge or hardship, faith and prayer are emptied of their power. The fundamentals of Acts 2 prepare us for the journey. A journey built upon a relationship with Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Making these fundamentals a consistent and intentional part of your life will ground you in God.



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, you are gracious and forgiving. You embrace me as I am and strengthen me as I pursue you. Thank you, Jesus, that in your death and resurrection there is the hope of new life granted to me. That, though I am weak and imperfect, I am not defined by my fears and failures but by your power and forgiveness. Make me bold that I may be able to withstand and overcome the challenges that come with following a bold God. I pray that I would endure until the end and that through your Holy Spirit you would reignite my passion. May my grit be grounded in you. In Jesus name I pray, amen.