

Title: Confrontation and Courage for All // **Scripture:** Acts 4:1-31

ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME *15-20 minutes*

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

SERMON REVIEW *5-10 minutes*

We continue the big theme from Acts—What does it mean to be “living” God? Peter and John proclaim in boldness the way Jesus taught them to live after a confrontation from a “good deed done” (healing a man). They are brought before the power brokers of their time, who are threatened by the alternative source of power being demonstrated. It is a new King, a new way, through a new temple, with a new hope for a new kingdom from a new Savior. They show us how to walk with a free and fearless confidence and a cheerful courage—not through some individual virtue but through the strength that comes from a community value—a connection to a body that prays together and brings requests to a sovereign God in unity. We aren’t courageous alone. We see that we live not in fearful times, but in times that are an invitation for living in courage, trusting a Good Father, connecting to courageous community and hoping in an unshakeable kingdom.

THE MAIN THOUGHT *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*

We will need courage to continue in “the way” as we are confronted with the friction of the world around us.

SEE IT – Questions *10-15 minutes*

Picture (What is the story saying?): In what ways are the powerful people threatened by Peter and John? How could Peter and John change the way people think about those people?

Mirror (Where am I in the story?): We live in a time filled with crisis, consumerism, and celebrity being pushed in front of us 24 hours a day. Do you react with fear and withdrawal from the shaking, or do you trust that God is sovereign, in control and inviting us to join in with him?

Window (How does the story change how I see those around me?): What’s shaking you right now? So often we aren’t aware of the things that are affecting us.

BE IT – Practice

Change UP // Exercise *7 minutes*

We have a Good Father offering us his hands to give us the courage to run forward (like Jon’s daughter, Bethany, in the video). Take some time to think about where you need to grab on to be able to go in courage. His hands are there. Confess anything holding you back, and in your own mind see yourself taking his hands and leaning forward.

Change IN // Group Activity *15 minutes*

Being with Jesus isn’t an individual virtue, it’s a community value. The community in Acts 4 clearly knew the Psalms. They used them for inspiration, prayer and worship. Find a Psalm (or use Psalm 2) to pray or sing. Talk about what’s been shaking you. Cultivate courage in your community by being united in asking God to move in those things in prayer.

Change OUT // Life Application Assignment *5 minutes*

What “good deed done” could your community come together to do that would shake things up? Would it create friction or challenge the normal story we are presented with? Why?

CLOSING PRAYER *5 minutes*

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.