



WEEK 11 DEVOTIONAL | **COURAGE**

RECEIVE

Slowly. Prayerfully, read out loud **Acts 4:5-22**. Before and after each reading, pause for a moment of silence. In that silence prayerfully ask the Spirit of Christ to guide you into knowing and living what you are receiving from the Scripture. Consider, what does God want you to reflect on and learn?

REFLECT

1. What is one idea from the message that captured your attention?
2. When you hear the word courage what comes to mind? How would you define it?
3. What do you think gave Peter and John the courage to speak boldly before the Sanhedrin?
4. Why was the courage of Peter and John surprising to the rulers and elders?
5. Why do you think the rulers and elders ultimately decided to release Peter and John despite their threats?
6. How does the acknowledgment of Peter and John's courage by the Sanhedrin affect the credibility of their testimony about Jesus?
7. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you needed to show courage in speaking about your faith? How did you handle it?
8. What can we learn from Peter and John's example when facing opposition or threats for standing up for what we believe?

9. Based on what you heard in the message, how would you complete the following: Developing Christ-like character takes courage because...
- a. It costs us something. Where do you feel this cost the most in your life?
 - b. It requires acknowledging our own mess. What is the hardest part of this practice for you? How can more courage be helpful?
 - c. It leads us on a long, slow journey. On this journey how is your courage right now? What would help give you a boost to stay the course?

RESPOND

What areas of your life do you need to pray and work towards having biblical courage? To follow God's leading no matter the circumstance? Journal or share how this message helps you grow in courage in those areas.

REMEMBER

Memorize Acts 4:19–20

SCRIPTURE

Acts 4:5–22 | New International Version (NIV)

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is "'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' Salvation is found in no one else,

for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name." Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to Him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.