



Open
Week 3 Study Guide

Read Acts 5:17-42

There was a time when local churches simply wanted what God wanted for them. The last thing they worried about was themselves. They were too concerned with the welfare of the people around them and were known by this kind of love. How do people view the church today?

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Reflection

Most of us don't face physical persecution, but what are some things in our culture that prevent Christians from being bold in their faith?

What are some practical ways you can tell the difference between being "bold" in a healthy and helpful way versus being abrasive and over the top in the way you interact with others?

Read Acts 5:41. What would it take for you to "rejoice" as a result of suffering disgrace because of your faith?

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Acts 5:41

What do you fear losing or suffering from if you were bold in your faith?

In what situations could you be bolder in saying something taking advantage of existing opportunities, or creating new opportunities when it would be easier to say nothing at all?

In what area of your life do you need to take a bold stand for your faith? What is one thing you can do this week to begin to take that stand? How can this group support you?

Closing

We are extraordinarily blessed. But instead of being grateful stewards of the blessings God has given us, we've allowed our comfort to make us complacent, to strip us of our boldness. We should repent of this type of thinking and turn toward the way of Christ. Like the apostles, we should be bold in our obedience to God and proud when we suffer in Jesus' name.

Bold is deciding to say something when it would be easier to say nothing.

Bold is taking advantage of the opportunities that present themselves. If you start praying for boldness, you will run into opportunities.

Bod is creating opportunities. It's reaching out to people even at the risk of offending them.