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**OPEN THE CONVERSATION**

Take some time to build relationships with the students:

* Ask for each student’s high and low from the week.
* Today’s RBQ (Relationship Building Question): What’s something that used to make you nervous but now feels kind of normal? (Example: ordering food, texting first, answering in class…)

**INTRODUCTION**

Have you ever had to speak up when it wasn’t easy—maybe in a group chat, in class, or when everyone else was silent? That moment where your heart’s racing, and you know what’s right, but you’re not sure how it’ll go?

That’s the kind of moment Peter and John faced in Acts 4. They had just healed a man in Jesus’s name, and instead of a celebration, they got arrested. The same powerful council that sentenced Jesus to death was now threatening them. But instead of backing down, they said something bold: “We can’t stop speaking about what we’ve seen and heard.”

And after that? They went back to their friends—not to hide, but to pray. Not for safety—but for **boldness**. This is what a healthy church looks like: not loud for the sake of it, but bold enough to speak the truth about Jesus even when it’s risky—and loving enough to pray for courage instead of comfort. This is what a healthy church looks like—not loud or aggressive, but clear, courageous, and Spirit-led. It’s not about having perfect words. It’s about trusting God enough to speak the truth, even when it’s risky.

***READ ACTS 4:19-20***

1. **Peter and John say they can’t help speaking about what they’ve seen and heard. What do you think makes someone feel that way about their faith? What would it look like to speak from that kind of place?**
2. **Why do you think it’s sometimes hard to speak up about your faith, even if it’s real to you? What kinds of things hold us back, especially at school or with friends?**

***READ ACTS 4:23-30***

1. **When the church prays for boldness instead of safety, what does that show you about what they value most? How does that challenge the way we usually pray when things feel hard or risky?**
2. **Why do you think the believers chose to pray together as a group after Peter and John were threatened? What does that show us about how the early church handled fear and pressure?**

***READ ACTS 4:31***

1. **God answers their prayer for boldness immediately. Why do you think boldness is something God wants to give us—not just back then, but today? What might boldness look like in your life right now?**

**WRAP UP**

Peter and John weren’t bold because they liked conflict. They were bold because they knew Jesus was worth it—and they trusted God to help them keep going. And the early church didn’t panic or hide. They prayed for boldness and kept moving forward, even when it was risky.

Is there someone in your life you’ve avoided talking to about your faith because it feels awkward or you’re afraid of how they’ll react? What’s one step you could take this week—whether it’s a conversation, an invite, or a moment of courage?

And if you’ve felt unsure or nervous, you’re not alone. Boldness doesn’t come from being fearless—it comes from being willing to ask God for help.

Ask for prayer requests and pray for boldness—for each other, for real opportunities to speak, and for the courage to live out the gospel with love and truth.

**EXTENDED CUT**

Peter and John’s boldness in Acts 4 didn’t come from arrogance or defiance—it came from conviction. They had seen too much, experienced too much, and been changed too deeply to stay silent. When they stood before the same council that had condemned Jesus just months earlier, they didn’t try to defend themselves or play it safe. Instead, they said, “We are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” That kind of courage didn’t come from personality—it came from the Holy Spirit and from living a faith that was real. They knew the risks. The Sanhedrin couldn’t punish them this time, but the threat was real. And yet, they still couldn’t keep quiet.

What happens next is even more powerful. When Peter and John returned to their people, they didn’t rally around fear or even strategy. They prayed. And their prayer wasn’t about safety or revenge—it was for boldness. They prayed, “Lord, consider their threats, and grant that your servants may speak your word with all boldness.” They didn’t ask God to take the threats away. They asked for strength to keep going. That prayer shows us what a healthy church looks like. It doesn’t hide from pressure—it leans into God’s power and asks for more courage, more clarity, and more faithfulness.

They also prayed that God would move—that signs and wonders would continue to confirm the message of Jesus. Not because they needed to be flashy, but because they wanted people to see that Jesus was still alive and still at work. That’s a bold prayer: not “make it easier,” but “make us stronger,” and “show people who You are.” And God responded. The place shook, the Holy Spirit filled them again, and they went out with even more boldness than before.

For students, this passage reminds them that gospel boldness isn’t about hype or being loud—it’s about being faithful. It’s about trusting that Jesus is worth following and speaking about, even when it’s risky or uncomfortable. It’s also about knowing where that boldness comes from—not from within, but from the Spirit. The early church didn’t try to hype themselves into courage. They prayed for it—and God gave it. That same power is still available to us today.

**1. Peter and John say they can’t help speaking about what they’ve seen and heard. What do you think makes someone feel that way about their faith? What would it look like to speak from that kind of place?**

When something becomes that real to you—like when God answers a prayer you didn’t think He’d hear, or when your relationship with Him actually starts changing how you think, feel, or treat people—you don’t have to force it. It just comes out. That’s where Peter and John were. They had seen too much to pretend like Jesus didn’t matter. Speaking from that place doesn’t necessarily mean standing on a table shouting—it just means you talk about your faith the same way you’d talk about anything that’s changed your life. It becomes natural, not performative.

**2. Why do you think it’s sometimes hard to speak up about your faith, even if it’s real to you? What kinds of things hold us back, especially at school or with friends?**

It’s easy to believe in something deeply and still struggle to talk about it—especially if you’re afraid of being labeled or misunderstood. Sometimes it’s fear of making things weird, or just not knowing how someone will react. Other times, you don’t feel qualified to say anything because you still have questions or mess-ups of your own. But even Peter and John weren’t perfect—they were just honest. The pressure we feel is real, but boldness isn’t about being fearless. It’s about being willing to speak up, even when it’s uncomfortable.

**3. When the church prays for boldness instead of safety, what does that show you about what they value most? How does that challenge the way we usually pray when things feel hard or risky?**

It shows they care more about doing what God wants than staying comfortable. They didn’t ask for the problem to go away—they asked for strength to keep going. That’s really different from how we usually pray. A lot of us ask God to fix things, but they asked Him to help them stay faithful in the middle of it.

**4. Why do you think the believers chose to pray together as a group after Peter and John were threatened? What does that show us about how the early church handled fear and pressure?**

They didn’t just handle it alone or quietly—they brought it to their community and to God. Praying together helped them stay focused on the mission and reminded them they weren’t in it alone. It shows that boldness doesn’t just come from inside you—it comes from God, and sometimes it starts with others praying alongside you.

**5. God answers their prayer for boldness immediately. Why do you think boldness is something God wants to give us—not just back then, but today? What might boldness look like in your life right now?**

God cares about people hearing the truth, and He knows we get scared. So He gives us what we need to speak up. Boldness today might look like inviting someone to church, praying out loud, posting something about your faith, or just being honest when a conversation comes up. It might not always be something as dramatic like our passage today—but it matters.