

## BIG IDEA

Only through reliance upon the Spirit *of God* will we experience extraordinary courage *for God*.

## WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Who is the most courageous person you know and what makes them so courageous? You might want to mention First Responders to crisis situations like Hurricane Harvey or September 11. These stories could really impact this week's discussions.

**Skim Acts 1-5.** How many times is the Holy Spirit mentioned? How might this be significant? A good exercise to try is to print off sections of this part of Acts and have people circle every mention of the Holy Spirit. You could also use this paper to make your list in the next question below.

**Read Acts 4:1-4.** Compare and contrast the mindset of the Sadducees and the mindset of the followers of Christ. What is similar and what is different? It might help you to make two columns with this question. Here's an example:

Sadducees	Followers of Christ
Were confrontational	Continued to believe
Were provoked	Increased their numbers
Hated the teachings about Jesus	Continued to do God's work

Meditate on this definition of courage: *Courage is doing the right thing when the wrong thing is easier, less costly, and less demanding.* Now read Acts 4:5-8. How did Peter and John demonstrate extraordinary courage in this interaction?

## WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

What is your initial, "gut" reaction to the Apostles' boldness in the book of Acts?

Be honest! What influences your worldview the most: Fox News, CNN or the Bible? Social Media or Jesus? Prayer or politics? Please be sure to keep the group on topic. This question could easily lead to "rabbit trails." If someone starts preaching about a certain political issue you might have to say something like, "That's a great point, so would that opinion shape your worldview more than other things?"





# LIFE GROUPS

## LEADER GUIDE

If God answered "YES" to every single one of your prayers, who would be the most blessed person in your community?

### WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

What disciplines could you apply to your life this week in order to live more courageously? Try to develop 3-4 disciplines you could accomplish easily. Here's some articles you could read about living courageously. These are NOT necessarily Christian authors, but you could use some of their tips (They're good!).

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/frank-niles-phd/how-to-be-courageous-\\_b\\_3527678.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/frank-niles-phd/how-to-be-courageous-_b_3527678.html)

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/05/08/living/live-courageous-life/index.html>

<https://www.inc.com/rhett-power/10-ways-to-live-a-more-courageous-life.html>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-dance-connection/201004/living-courageously-heres-how>

How can you make **Acts 4:13** a reality in your life?

Write and develop a prayer asking God to give you boldness. Commit to praying this prayer every night for the next seven days. Have the group write their prayers on 3x5 cards and place them in a location where they can see it on a daily basis.

