

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

Part 4: Bold



Opening

1. Share a favourite story about your mom.
2. Share a time where you were 'bold'.

Going Deeper

1. Read Acts 4. What strikes you about this passage?
2. Read Luke 20:1-8 and Acts 4:5-8. What are the 2 pictures of authority being shown here by Luke. Describe *real* authority.
3. Luke writes that, "Peter spoke with boldness". What was that like? How is this different than being arrogant and obnoxious. How has Peter changed since the Resurrection, through the power of the Holy Spirit? (Compare to Peter as described in Luke 22:54-62.)
4. Read Psalm 118:21-22. How is Jesus the cornerstone? How would the religious leaders have heard this?
5. We see God take ordinary (unschooled) fishermen and use them. Later in Acts, God takes an enemy of Christians (Paul) and profoundly uses him. How is this encouraging?

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“Only kinship. Inching ourselves closer to creating a community of kinship such that God might recognize it. Soon we imagine, with God, this circle of compassion. Then we imagine no one standing outside that circle, moving ourselves closer to margins so that the margins themselves will be erased. We stand there with those whose dignity has been denied. We locate ourselves with the poor and the powerless and the voiceless. At the edges, we join the easily despised and the readily left out. We stand with the demonized so that demonizing will stop. We situate ourselves right next to the disposable so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away. The prophet Habakkuk writes, ‘The vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment and it will not disappoint... and if it delays, wait for it.’

Kinship is what God presses us on to, always hopeful that its time has come.” -Fr. Gregory Boyle

6. What strikes you about this quote? Should we be boldly living this out? How?

7. Read Acts 4:29-37. (Refer back to Deuteronomy 15:4) What does bold gospel living look like? How are these things lived out in our Church, in our time?

8. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9 and Acts 4:33. How is grace the key to bold living and image bearing?

9. Barnabas means ‘son of encouragement’. He showed boldness through encouraging others. In what areas of your life are you bold? Where would you like to be more bold?

Close in Prayer

BLESS Rhythms Summary: (modified)

BLESS: This is the practice of blessing another person. It can be big or small (buying groceries for someone, banging pots at 7 pm to show your thanks, checking in with your neighbour). *Who have you blessed this week?*

LISTEN: This is the practice of listening, both to God and to others. *How did you set time aside this week to be a listener?*

E-mail/Text/Video Call. This is the practice of reaching out to someone that comes to your mind while you are in prayer this week. *Who have you connected with this week?*

SPEAK: This is the practice of speaking our faith. It can happen through encouragement, story sharing, and evangelism. *How have you spoken your faith this week?*

SABBATH: This is the practice of resting from work and taking time to rest and enjoy creation. *How are you practicing Sabbath this week?*