

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 21 of 30 | Sermon date: May 22, 2022

Discipleship Phrase: God's church, God's way.

Big Idea for Series: God's church is built on His principles.

Abiding (*grow as a disciple yourself*)

Spend some time this week in the Scriptures provided. They speak to what courage is and what it isn't. Often, courage is confused by strength. When we lean into the courage God has placed within us, we can do the things we are fearful of, with His help. Strength does not overcome fear, only courage can. Think about and pray over the ways you have walked through courage throughout your life and how that impacted your path. Where did you see His courage coming out through your actions or words and what was the outcome?

Leading (*facilitate your group effectively*)

This week, a piece of the message is around having the courage to step into hard conversations in order to fight for the relationship. If you recall from the message, "courage is the opposite of fear, not the absence of it". Share that with your group to frame the discussion this week. As you dive into these questions, you'll find that it's about seeing the examples of courage from the passages. It's about determining if courage demands to be chosen. It's about the fears and hang ups that keep us from being relationally courageous. And finally, it's about owning up to and staring down the hard conversation that we know we need to have this week and following through with it courageously.

Shepherding (*know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep*)

Courage as a Christian is the willingness to say and do the right thing regardless of the cost. When something can be painful to you, it will take an act of courage to step into it. The uncertainty of someone's heart or behavior can seem terrifying and can create fear and apprehension. Take mental note during discussion this week. Who needs your courageous support to press into their relationships? How can you point them to the need to trust God and faith must be the foundation? Recognize that fear plays a huge part in one's ability to act and hinders authenticity. As you have conversations, share your "relationship story" that required courage in the midst of uncertainty, perceived threat, or fear of being exposed.

Church Announcements (*be in the know & share with your group*)

New Women's study starting June 9th from 6:30-8:30 PM. Click [here](#) for more info and to register.

REMEMBER:

"Every group deserves a great leader."

LIFE GROUPS

SERIES| Acts | WEEK 21 of 30 | Sermon date: May 22, 2022

Welcome/Introductions & Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows (*choose what fits best*)

Weekly Vision (*Announcements, The “Why”, Goal, Outreach, Guidelines, & Branching*)

Guidelines: Confidentiality, Avoid Crosstalk, Avoid fixing & Rescuing, Use “I” Statements, Contribute over Consume, Be Mindful of Self (allow all to share & use humor responsibly).

Ask a Hook Question (*a thought-provoking question*)

Share an activity you've done in the past that took real courage.

Recap the Message (*ask a couple people to share*)

Scripture References (*Read scriptures directly from the Bible*)

Acts 18:24-26 (ESV), **Acts** 19:1-3 (ESV)

Implications (*takeaways from the message*)

1. Either Jesus is the Lord of everything or the Lord of nothing.
2. Relationship reveals but courage always demands to be chosen.
3. Real always recognizes real. Spirit recognizes Spirit.
4. God has creative liberty over His story and what you think is your story.

Discussion Questions (*going beyond the surface*)

1. Read Acts 18:24-26 and Acts 19:1-3. Based on the context of these conversations, why might it have taken real courage to have both?
2. Do you believe that courage is a choice and why?
3. What is it that keeps you from choosing to be courageous and have hard conversations in your relationships?
4. What courageous conversation do you know you need to have this week? More importantly, will you have the courage to actually follow through?

Closing Prayer (*ask openly for a volunteer*)