

# NOTES & QUESTIONS

## GOSPEL COURAGE

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ACTS 4:8-31

### Introduction

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus
2. Create \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_
4. Drop in \_\_\_\_\_
5. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

- 1) Would you describe yourself, in general, as a courageous person? Explain. How bold are you when it comes to bringing up Jesus in conversation? If you are not as bold as you'd like to be, explain why.
- 2) Read Acts 3:1-10. What two or three things strike you from this story?
- 3) Read Acts 4:1-13. What astonished the religious leaders about Peter and John? To what did they attribute this characteristic? Why would hanging out with Jesus have made these two men courageous?
- 4) Read John 15:4, 5. What r-word pops up repeatedly in these verses? What does it mean? Practically speaking, how do we do it (multiple answers)? Why do you think remaining produces fruit? (Note: fruit-bearing refers, in part, to seeing our relationship with Jesus reproduced in others.)
- 5) Read Acts 4:14-16. What gave Peter and John the open door to talk about Jesus? In what other ways (i.e., than a miracle) might we create an open door that leads to a conversation about Jesus?
- 6) Read Colossians 4:3. Describe a recent occasion when you had an open door to talk about Jesus--whether you walked through the door or not. If you hesitated to bring up Jesus in that conversation, why?
- 7) Read Acts 4:18,19. What dilemma did Peter and John face? People are probably not telling you--explicitly--to keep Jesus to yourself. But how is that message communicated in today's culture?
- 8) Read Matthew 28:18, 19, and Acts 1:8. What were Jesus' farewell instructions to his followers? What happens (multiple answers) if we obey those who tell us (perhaps subtly) to shut up instead of Jesus, who commands us to speak up? Why is it critical to obey a prompting to talk about Jesus right away?
- 9) Read Acts 3:6, 13, 16 and 4:10, 12. Why is it important to talk about Jesus, specifically--and not just about God, generically? Note: This does not mean we must mention Jesus at the beginning of every conversation. But it is where we hope some conversations end up.
- 10) Explain (role play) how you might get to a conversation about Jesus from the following topics in a non-cheesy way (i.e., don't suggest something you'd be too embarrassed to say). How would you go from a conversation about your job--to Jesus? From your family to Jesus? From the weather to Jesus? From sports to Jesus? From a recent answer to prayer to Jesus?
- 11) Read Acts 4:23-31. The disciples prayed for boldness to talk about Jesus, and God answered their prayer. What did they say in their prayer (multiple answers) that stoked the fire of their boldness?
- 12) With whom would God want you to be more courageous in sharing Jesus? What's your next step with them?