



Be Bold

Every day we face situations that give us the opportunity to choose boldness in our faith in Christ.

Every day the kids face situations that give them the opportunity to make bold decisions in their faith.

Sometimes it's easier to simply be silent or go along with the crowd, their friends.

TEACH

*Share a time in your life when it was easier **not** to be bold about your faith – maybe a time when fear got in your way.*

Now, I don't know about you, but sometimes it can be tough to be bold.

It's tough to be confident in who you know you should be and not to bow to fear.

Today's scripture is a story about two men who were anything but bold in the first part of their lives.

Peter was a disciple of Jesus and he actually denied even knowing Jesus three times!!

Peter was truly afraid for his life and needed to be because being friends with Jesus was dangerous.

But, let's check in on Peter and John following the death and resurrection of Jesus.

They have some serious words for the religious leaders... and it's important to remember these are the same religious leaders who killed Jesus.

They had every reason to be fearful.

Read Acts 4:1-15.

Now, let's put this situation into modern day.

Sure, we are really lucky that knowing Jesus doesn't put our lives in danger, but remember that around the world being a Christian can also mean you could be killed.

Come up with some examples of situations in which it is easy to let fear get the best of you and influence your decisions.

If your kids need help, below are some suggestions:

Their friends are making fun of someone and although they feel they should stick up for them, they don't.

Your friends are making decisions they shouldn't, but you just go along with it.

Give the groups a chance to share their scenarios.

What are some reasons that it can be easier to be silent and not be bold in your faith?

Give the students a chance to answer.

One thing we see in the life of Peter is that even though he wasn't bold when he denied Jesus, not once, but THREE times, Jesus forgave him.

At that point, Peter stood before all the religious leaders and BOLDLY spoke for Jesus.

And what did the leaders think?

They were amazed because they knew Peter and John and knew they were 'just ordinary' men – and the same is true for us.

Is it easy?

No.

Could it cost you your reputation?

Well, I guess it depends on who's opinion of you matters: others or Jesus'.

Your own opinion – because even if you are simply silent in situations in which you could stand up – nobody else might know....but you will know.

Be bold.

Speak up for what is right.

Don't be ashamed to share the difference Christ has made in your life.

And get ready for people to see Christ in you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why is it difficult to be bold in your faith sometimes?
- Share a situation in which you were silent when you should have spoken up.
- Share situations the group can pray for you to be bold about your faith in and commit to pray for one another.
- If you lived in a country where Christians are killed for their faith, what would you do?