

COURAGEOUS

FACILITATOR GUIDE

CPC HAPPENINGS... [announce these upcoming events]

REMEMBER: MAY IS SUMMER SERVE MONTH AT CPC!

MAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Ladies, mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 18, in the Kids Point area and join us for a night of laughter, fun, and a deep dive into the Word so we can “Rise Above.” Child care will be available for nursery aged children.

BLOOD DRIVE—There is an emergency need for blood donors. Please take the time to donate at CPC on May 20. One donation can save up to 3 lives! To schedule a donation, go to redcrossblood.org/give, type Jackson's zip code (63755) into the following page. Scroll down until you find Connection Point on May 20.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR—May 23, 6:00 pm. This is the first step in your journey to partnership. Have coffee and dessert with Pastor Chris and some of the staff as you learn about the vision and DNA of Connection Point Church. Find out how you can get connected with other people by becoming involved in our various service opportunities. Register at: yourcpc.church/events

NO FEAR

What is a phobia/ or phobias you have? [Dark, public speaking, spiders, snakes, etc.]

Have you ever been paralyzed by fear?

What did you lack in order to speak up? [Courage, bravery]

Why do you think more people don't share the gospel with others? [Fear—of embarrassment, rejection, etc.]

Courage requires **BOLDNESS**. Boldness is being **AFRAID** and facing the **DANGER** anyway.

1 Thessalonians 2:2—We had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition

Where did Paul say their boldness to speak came from? [Two places]

1. The **POWER** of God
2. The importance of the **MESSAGE**

In this verse, Paul uses a form of the Greek root word *parresia*. This comes from two important Greek ideas – *pas* (all) and *rhexis* (speaking). Boldness is speaking all we know in the delivery of the message.

At the heart of boldness is **COURAGE**. Proceeding courage is **RISK**. Without risk, there is no need for courage.

What was a risk you took? (At a job, financially, medically, a decision regarding your family, etc.)

How did you get the courage to take the risk? [Because you believed in the cause. Because your family was too important. Your purpose overcame your fear.]

Read this scripture describing when Jesus led His disciples into the garden of Gethsemane the night of His arrest. Pay close attention to Peter's actions.

John 18:1-3, 10— After Jesus had said these things, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. 2 Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with His disciples. 3 So Judas took a company of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees and came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

Judas had brought a company of Roman soldiers to arrest Jesus. A company of soldiers would have consisted of 600 soldiers. 600 soldiers to arrest one man. In the heat of the moment, Peter took his sword and cut off the high priest's servant's ear.

Do you think Peter was courageous?

[Peter's actions were a false boldness because he confused divine courage with a spontaneous violent action done without adequate thought. We know that Peter's actions were not condoned by Jesus because He "undid" what Peter had done.]

Luke 22:51— But Jesus responded, "No more of this!" And touching his ear, he healed him.

[A high priest couldn't serve if he had a deformity of any kind. By striking the servant (who was probably an apprentice) Peter was making sure he was cut off from serving in the priesthood. In healing him, Jesus was restoring him to his calling. This incident was symbolic really of what Jesus was doing for all us on the cross—restoring us to our purpose.]

BOLD COURAGE

So Peter shows us there is a good boldness and a bad boldness. So what gives us good boldness in our faith?

1. RIGHTEOUSNESS breeds boldness.

What does righteousness mean? [virtuous, honorable, or morally right character]

Proverbs 28:1—The wicked flee when no one is pursuing them, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

2. TIME with Jesus breeds boldness.

Acts 4:13—When they observed the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and recognized that they had been with Jesus.

What are ways to spend time with God?

- a. Make **BIBLE** a priority
- b. Make **PRAYER** a habit
- c. Make **WORSHIP** an obsession

3 HOLY SPIRIT breeds boldness.

Acts 4:27-31—For, in fact, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, assembled together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, 28 to do whatever your hand and your will had predestined to take place. 29 And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that your servants may speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand for healing, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly.

According to this passage, what did the apostles pray for? [“Grant that your servants may speak your word with all boldness...”]

Do you pray for your boldness in this world?

Consider the areas of your life where you need to have a greater boldness for speaking about God into the lives of others.

The fuel for boldness and courage is **FAITH**.

Hebrews 4:16— Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

This verse tells us to come boldly so that we may obtain what we need. So, boldness is a prerequisite to receiving. Making faith the fuel for boldness.

4. **PURPOSE** breeds boldness

Acts 13:45-47—But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what Paul was saying, insulting him.

46 Paul and Barnabas boldly replied, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first. Since you reject it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: I have made you a light for the Gentiles to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

What was Paul and Barnabus’ purpose? [To preach the gospel to the people.]

What response did the Jews have to their message? [They rejected it—even insulted them for their preaching.]

What was their counter-response? [They began to focus their ministry on the Gentiles (non-Jews)? Their mission was clear. Despite the opposition, obedience to God was top priority.]

Service to God was not **AN OPTION**.

How was their purpose a driving force to their courage? [They felt the urgency of their message. They took the opportunity to share the gospel everywhere they went. It drove their passion to speak courageously.]

What is your response when your message (testimony/witness) is rejected by someone? [Do you give up entirely or move to another?]

How important is your testimony for others to hear? [Each person has a testimony that someone else can relate to. Never let the enemy convince you that you don’t have an interesting story that can move people. There are always others out there just like you.]

PRAYER TIME

- Thank God for using us to take part in the spreading of the Good News to the world. He has given you a message. Praise Him for His desire to entrust His message with you.
- Ask God to increase your boldness. Remember He has commanded us to be of good courage.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to put you in the right place at the right time to share your testimony with others.
- What are you going through right now that you need courage to go through? Seek God for the boldness you need to endure the moment and the boldness you need to surrender the situation to God.