INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been afraid that if you did what was right, people would laugh at you? God tells us that we do not need to fear. In fact, when we are fearful, that fear is not from God: “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (II Timothy 1:7). Therefore, when we know the right thing to say, we ought to speak boldly. While Satan can intimidate us in an effort to keep us silent, God enables us to proclaim His truth. When you see something is wrong, take action. When you see injustice, speak up. How exciting that God is with us and that we have no need to fear as we follow His lead. “We may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:6).
What is Boldness?
Read aloud, study, and discuss what boldness means and how it applies to life.

The operational definition of boldness is “confidence that what I have to say or do is true and right and just in the sight of God.” A bold person is willing to obey when God calls them to take a stand for Him. Boldness requires discernment to know when to stand, courage to face the unknown, wisdom to foresee the outcome, and love to communicate graciously.

The first step of boldness is to yield to the call of the Lord. God’s Word shows us what is true, and He has commissioned us to go and proclaim that truth to the world through our words and actions. Are you resisting that call or agreeing that He has called you to proclaim truth? He will teach you what is true, right, and just. You can be confident in Him. When you are in fellowship with the Lord and willing to yield to Him, the Holy Spirit will teach you to know how and when to take a stand for truth.

The opposite of boldness is fearfulness. If your focus turns from the Lord, fear creeps in easily. Not everyone will agree with the truth. You may worry what people will say or do if you stand for what is right. Instead of being fearful, ask yourself, “What is God asking me to do?” and “What will happen to others if I remain silent?” Total commitment to God and genuine love for others will motivate you to be bold. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord” (II Timothy 1:7–8).

Boldness is needed often. Perhaps you hear someone say there is more than one way to heaven. Is that true? God can enable you to speak up and tell this person that Jesus is the only way to heaven and why that fact is true. What if a friend asks you to keep a secret from your parents? Is that the right thing to do? Ask God to give you the boldness to tell your friend that keeping secrets from parents is not a wise thing to do. Or if you know someone who was falsely accused, do you speak up so the real offender can face his just penalty? Even praying over your food in public is a simple way you can be bold in your witness for Christ. Humbly listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit and God will enable you to be bold at the right time!

“God told Israel that if she did not listen and obey Him, then she would lose boldness before her enemies. “The sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth” (Leviticus 26:36).
Proverbs 2:1–6 says, “My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” What a privilege to study the rich truths of God’s Word, hide them in your heart, and apply them to daily life! These truths are priceless treasures, far above the value and beauty of rubies and diamonds. As you dig deeper into God’s Word, see Who God is, and allow Him to work in you, your life will be a radiant expression of His love. He will be glorified as His character is seen in you.

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

We see examples of boldness in God’s character in the following ways:

- We can be confident that God is truth. (See Titus 1:2.)
- We can be confident that God is righteousness. (See Psalm 98:2.)
- We can be confident in God’s justice. (See Genesis 18:25.)
- Jesus did not hesitate to act when He saw the temple being used in a way that was not right. (See Mark 11:15–17.)
- Jesus’ authority gave Him a boldness which astonished His hearers. (See Mark 1:22.)
- Using Scripture, Jesus stood firm against Satan. (See Matthew 4:5–7.)
- The Holy Spirit gives us power, not fear. (See Romans 8:15, II Timothy 1:7.)

BOLDNESS IN MY LIFE

Now let’s examine some ways God wants us to live out boldness daily.

- Do my words and actions inspire confidence or fear in those around me? (See Deuteronomy 20:8.)
- Do I have confidence that God is my Helper, or do I fear what people could do to me? (See Hebrews 13:6.)
- How do I react when people make fun of my faith? Do I hide that I am a Christian, or do I tell them about Jesus? (See Romans 1:16–17.)
- How do I respond when God asks me to speak or take a stand? Am I willing to trust God to give me boldness, or do I try to find a reason why I cannot obey Him? (See Isaiah 6:8.)
- Do I study and memorize God’s Word so that I know the truth well and can boldly reject Satan’s lies? (See John 8:31–32.)
- Should Christians fear standing before God on Judgment Day, or can they be confident in God’s love for them? (See I John 4:17–18.)
- Am I praying for missionaries and pastors who need boldness to preach the Gospel? (See Ephesians 6:18–19.)
- Because I cannot boldly proclaim a truth I am not practicing, am I careful to live according to God’s Word? (See Philippians 1:27–28.)

BOLDNESS KEY VERSE

“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.” ACTS 4:29
The last instructions of Jesus to His disciples before He ascended into heaven were to be witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the ends of the earth. Soon thereafter, both Peter and John were in the upper room when the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to guide them in all truth. Peter, following Jesus’ Great Commission, was the first to rise and proclaim truth to those who stood nearby, encouraging them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus. Three thousand souls were saved that day! After such a dynamic beginning of the first century Church, troubles quickly followed. No work of God will go unattacked by the enemy. One day on their way to prayer, Peter and John healed a lame man, which caused quite a stir at the temple! Peter began preaching truth to the people who gathered, and again, thousands believed on Jesus. The Sadducees immediately arrested Peter and John. The two disciples were standing before the rulers, elders, scribes, and the high priest’s relatives which made up the council (religious court). Would Peter boldly proclaim Christ before the council? Read this account from God’s Word and learn the secret of Peter and John’s boldness and what happened when they spoke without fear.

**BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS**

*Read Acts 4:1–30 together and discuss the following questions:*

1. **What core Gospel truth did Peter and John boldly preach to the people?** *(See Acts 4:1–2.)*
   What are the basic truths of the Gospel? Have you ever been involved in sharing the Good News?

2. **How did the religious leaders react to Peter and John’s message? How did the multitude respond?** *(See Acts 4:3–4.)*
   When was a time you spoke the truth and received a positive response? Have you ever received a negative response? Did the person’s response affect the truth of your message?

3. **How did God empower Peter to boldly answer the religious leaders?** *(See Acts 4:8.)*
   When your stand for righteousness is questioned, are you able to answer boldly? What promise is given to believers in Mark 13:11?

4. **What was the main point of Peter’s message to the religious leaders?** *(See Acts 4:9–12.)*
   If you had the opportunity to tell someone about Jesus, what would you tell them?

5. **What did the religious leaders notice about Peter and John?** *(See Acts 4:13.)*
   Do you regularly spend time with Jesus? When do you read your Bible and pray?

6. **How did the council deal with Peter and John and their preaching?** *(See Acts 4:17–18.)*
   Was there ever a time you were told to do something wrong—something that was against God’s will? What did you do?

7. **What was Peter and John’s bold, yet respectful, response to the council?** *(See Acts 4:19–20.)*
   Who do you know who has spoken out boldly, but was still respectful and humble?

8. **What did Peter and John do after they were released by the council?** *(See Acts 4:23–24.)*
   Which of your friends would encourage you to speak boldly and then rejoice with you afterward? How can you encourage your friends, brothers, and sisters to do what is right?
Memory Verse
ACTS 4:29

Play the game together to help the children commit Acts 4:29 to memory. In the section “Doers of the Word,” have the children record how they will apply the verse to their lives.

“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.”

ACTS 4:29

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Knock, Knock, You’re It!

Select one child to sit facing a wall, with his back toward the others. Have the other children slowly read the verse aloud together. As each word of the verse is said, a different child raises and lowers his hand followed by the next child raising and lowering his hand as the next word is said. While the children are reciting the verse, the one with his back to the others chooses when to knock on the wall. When he knocks, whoever was raising his hand at that moment switches places with the “knocker.” Continue until everyone has the verse memorized or each person has had a chance to be the “knocker.”

DOERS OF THE WORD

In the blank below, write how this verse could be applied in your life, e.g., “rely on You for boldness,” or “not fear man’s threats,” or “share the Gospel with someone.”

“Dear Lord, I yield to You and am willing to apply this verse. Help me to ____________________________.

I ask that You would develop boldness in my life. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

When the Lord gives you an opportunity to apply this verse, write it in your journal to later recall God’s working in your life.
INTRODUCTION

Enjoy meditating on and thinking about the words of the boldness key verse and definition as you find them in the word search below. The underlined words are hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or backwards.

Acts 4:29

“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.”

Boldness

Confidence that what I have to say or do is true and right and just in the sight of God

If finding the underlined words is too difficult or frustrating for your child, assign only a few words to find, such as “the” and “Lord.” Younger children could point to the ABC’s. Older children may enjoy the extra challenge of finding all the words instead of only the underlined words.
Craft
MELTING FEARS

Supplies:
• Styrofoam cup
• Permanent marker
• Ceramic or glass plate (Do not use paper, plastic, or styrofoam plates.)
• Nail polish remover (Must be 100% acetone. Adult supervision is recommended.)

Instructions
Pour several ounces of nail polish remover onto the ceramic plate. Break off part of the styrofoam cup and hold it up so the children can see it.

This piece of styrofoam represents fear. Can you think of a fear that would keep you from being bold?

Ask children for suggestions. You may also see the list below for ideas. Write a fear on the styrofoam piece.

In II Timothy 1:7, we read that “God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” If we believe what God’s Word says, then we will not be afraid. The nail polish remover on this plate represents God’s Word. God’s Word can conquer our fears. What Scripture relates to the fear we wrote on the piece of styrofoam mentioned earlier?

Ask children for suggestions.

What do you think will happen to the fear written on this styrofoam when it comes in contact with God’s Word which is represented by the nail polish remover?

Watch the styrofoam instantly dissolve in the nail polish remover.

God’s Word has the power to dispel our fears! Whenever you are afraid to speak the truth, remember what God’s Word says. His Word is true, and as you believe it, your fears will dissolve and you will be free to speak the truth. Let’s write another fear you have on a piece of styrofoam and then think of a verse you can ask God to help you remember when you have this fear. When you have a verse, let’s say it and then put the styrofoam fear on the plate and watch it dissolve.

Continue dropping additional pieces of styrofoam (fears) into the nail polish remover (God’s Word) and talking to the children about their fears.

Sample fears and Scriptures:
• Fear of what people will think of me. (See Proverbs 29:25.)
• Fear of what people will do. (See Psalm 56:11.)
• Fear of evil. (See Psalm 23:4.)
• Fear of being rejected or left alone. (See Hebrews 13:5–6.)
• Fear of talking to others. (See John 14:27.)
• Other fears. (See Psalm 56:3.)

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“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).
“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

Sing “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus.” Read about the boldness of the young man whose life was the inspiration for this song by hymnwriter George Duffield.

Although only 30 years old, Dudley Tyng was already known as a bold, uncompromising preacher. He would seek out those who needed Christ, and boldly preach to them the Gospel. This young man also boldly spoke against the evils of slavery despite knowing that such an abolitionist stance could cost him his pastorate. Just days before a terrible accident that would cut his life short, Pastor Tyng preached to a packed auditorium of 5,000 men. His message was from Exodus 10:11, “Go now ye that are men, and serve the Lord.” Placing his left hand on his right arm at the shoulder, he fervently avowed, “I must tell my Master’s errand, and I would rather this right arm were amputated at the trunk, than that I should come short of my duty to you in delivering God’s message.” Of that assembly, an estimated 1,000 men came to Christ that day! As Pastor Tyng left the meeting, he had no idea what would soon happen.

Shortly thereafter, Pastor Tyng was spending a day in his study. Outside in the Pennsylvania farmyard an old mule plodded in a giant circle, powering the corn sheller. Ready for a break, the preacher strolled outside to check on the corn shelling. Entering the shed, the young man reached to scratch the mule’s head. Suddenly, Pastor Tyng’s long, loose sleeve caught in the corn shelling gears! Swiftly his arm was yanked into the giant wheel, up to his shoulder. The main artery in his arm was severely damaged, and the doctor had no choice except amputation. In the days following the accident, infection set in, forcing the doctor to determine, “He cannot get well.” Yet, the injured man boldly asked, “Doctor, are you a Christian? If not, come to Jesus.” Pastor Tyng led the doctor to Christ! Still, the young man was dying. His father, also a pastor, tearfully and gently asked his son, “Do you have a farewell message for your friends?” The bold preacher whispered his final words in response: “Tell them to stand up for Jesus.”

Hymn History Bibliography


Photo courtesy of www.hymntime.com/tch
Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

George Duffield (1818–1888)  George J. Webb (1803–1887)

1. Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross!
2. Stand up, stand up for Jesus, The trumpet call o bey;
3. Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Stand in His strength a lone;
4. Stand up, stand up for Jesus, The strife will not be long;

Lift high His royal banner It must not suffer loss.
Forth to the mighty conflict In this His glorious day.
The arm of flesh will fail you Ye dare not trust your own.
This day the noise of battle The next, the victor’s song.

From victory unto victory His army shall He lead,
Ye that are men now serve Him Against unnumbered foes;
Put on the gospel armor, Each piece put on with prayer;
To Him that overcometh A crown of life shall be;

Till ev’ry foe is vanquished And Christ is Lord indeed.
Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.
He with the King of glory Shall reign eternally.