

# Harvest

## Enable Your Servants

**Boldness brings harvest (Acts 4:19-20, 29-31).** Whether we like it or not, the gospel of Jesus is confrontational. And no matter how loving, kind, or gentle we may be, there will be opposition (John 15:18-19; 2 Timothy 3:12). When we choose to follow Jesus in love and obedience, we will make decisions that others will question and even challenge. When we face that opposition or confrontation, we are called to respond with a boldness that loves people radically and stands for truth courageously. That kind of boldness – that seeks to balance truth and love – produces a world-changing harvest.

### GETTING STARTED

What is one situation you have experienced where your boldness or courage was rewarded? What is possibly one situation you regret not having boldness?

### GO DEEPER

1. According to Jesus in John 15:18-19, how does the world respond to those who belong or do not belong to it? Why do you think the world reacts this way? What did Jesus mean in Matthew 10:34 when He says that He *did not come to bring peace, but a sword*?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:13-14, 17. In our boldness, how are we to respond to those in authority who act or govern in ungodly ways? How are we to respond to those we disagree with or who treat us poorly, according to James 3:9-10?
3. From Acts 4:11-12, how did Peter and John respond to the Jewish leaders questioning them? How do we stand for truth without compromise in a loving, gentle, and respectful way in a world or culture that rejects and challenges those convictions?

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How bold are you, in general, when it comes to your faith in Jesus? What produces courage or fear in you, and why?
2. Boldness loves people radically and stands for truth courageously. Which one of those comes more naturally for you, and which one is more difficult? How do you respond to peers (neighbors, coworkers, family members, etc.) who disagree with you or treat you poorly? How do you respond to those in government or authority that make ungodly decisions or who verbally attack your beliefs?
3. What needs to change for you to become bolder in how you love radically and stand for truth courageously?

### PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, ask God to give you a stronger measure of boldness concerning Him and His Kingdom. Read Acts 4:29-31 verbally, and make it your own prayer. Ask God to increase your capacity to boldly love others and to courageously stand for truth. Ask Him to give you the right balance between love and truth in how you respond to those who possibly disagree with you or treat you poorly because of the Godly choices you are making.

### BLESS

Part of being a blessing to others is purposefully asking God who He is highlighting within your sphere of influence that you can specifically pray for. Take time this week to ask God who you are to pray for and how to pray for them.