

Courageous Action

Welcome to our fifth week in our 6-week series on 'Courageous Living'. We have discussed a lot in a short time, so we pray God has really been speaking to you and inspiring you through the series.

How did you feel God inspire you through the message on Sunday?

When was a time you felt God called you to courageous action (however big or small)? How did you see God use you and work through you as you stepped out in faith?

How did that action bless you? Did it fill you with the confidence and courage to do something like it again?

Courageous Action: empowered living for Christ

Read together Luke 9:1-6

Can you imagine being there and receiving that commissioning? How empowered would that make you feel? What kind of courage would that give you?

When Luke 9:1 talks of 'power and authority' – what power and authority do you think is meant here?

Was that power and authority available in a special way only for the 12 disciples or do you think that a Jesus-based power and authority is for all of his disciples?

Read Luke 10:17-20, John 14:12-14, Acts 1:7-8, Ephesians 3:14-21. How do these verses give you a sense of what the Scriptures teach on this issue? How do these verses give you courage and confidence?

Having received this power and authority, what was the action of the 12 in Luke 9, and the actions of the 72 in Luke 10? Do you think they would have been as effective if they weren't filled with a courage that came from knowing who had sent them?

Brainstorm together some courageous actions that Christians who are seeking to live empowered lives for Christ could do that would bring glory to God and bless our community.

Courageous Action: can be costly (but worth it!)

When we step out in faith there is always the risk of failure, ridicule, or opposition. What possible fears might the 12 in Luke 9 or the 72 in Luke 10 had as they were sent out?

What are some of the fears that might hold you back from acting courageously on your convictions and faith in Christ?

As Jesus sent both the 12 and the 72 out, he sent them out without a “security blanket” (Luke 9:3, Luke 10:3-4) and with the expectation of at least some rejection (Luke 9:5, Luke 10:10-11). Why do you think Jesus gave them these instructions?

Consider the enthusiasm and joy the disciples would have had as they came back and reported all they had done (Luke 9:10, Luke 10:17). Can you imagine how much of a celebration and affirmation that would have been? How can we help celebrate and affirm the courageous actions of one another in this group?

Courageous Action: more than learning required

Having watched, listened and learnt from Jesus now the disciples had the mandate to go and do. Can you imagine Luke 9:1-2 reading ‘and he gave them power and authority to meet together and discuss all they had learned’?

As believers we need to be careful not to fall into the trap of listening, learning and knowing without doing anything about it. Read the warning and encouragement in James 1:22-25. How does acting on what we know from the Word result in being blessed in what we do?

As you think back over the past 4 weeks (courageous love, courageous faith, courageous hope and courageous self-sacrifice), what do you feel God is calling you **to do**?

Spend time encouraging and praying for one another and resolve this week to go and act on what God has spoken to you about!