

“Live Big (and Bold)!”

Series: “Live Big” (1 of 2)

Open: When it comes to living BIG and BOLD I a) like living on the edge, b) go for it when the mood strikes, or c) prefer to play it safe.

Explore: Read Mark 12:41-44.

1. What was Jesus doing as he sat in the temple (vs. 41)? What did he notice about many of those who were affluent?
2. How much did the widow put into the offering (vs. 42)?
3. What important truth did Jesus share with his disciples concerning giving (vs. 43-44)? In God’s economy when is a “little” gift actually more than a “big” gift?
4. On a scale of 1-5 (5 being the greatest) how would you rate the woman’s level of boldness? What is the connection between trusting God and living boldly for God?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. What does it mean to live boldly for God? Why is it important to push the boundaries of our own comfort zones?
2. How would you describe the difference between living by “my personal efforts” and living by “God’s Spirit” to someone learning to follow God?
3. Describe a time when the hope you have in Christ Jesus increased your confidence. How have you recently experienced God’s strength and power in your daily life?
4. Paul used God’s grace as a reason to live more boldly for Him. How does forgiveness change the way we approach God the Father?
5. Why is God so concerned with our character? In what way(s) have you experienced God’s transforming work in your life?

Live:

As a group: Divide into sub-groups (women / men) for this section. What is one area of your character you believe needs to be transformed into the likeness of Christ (attitude / ability to love others / sin issue / willingness to serve/ etc.)? Once you share, remind one another of God’s strength to transform our lives. Then pray for one another.

On your own: Reflect on the past 4 weeks of your life and then answer the following question. When it comes to my spiritual life, have I been living boldly for God or am I in need of confidence? Read over this passage everyday and ask God to give you boldness.

Listening Guide Notes

“Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.” -2 Corinthians 3:12 (NIV)

I can live boldly because I know...

1. _____ in life come from God’s Spirit, not my efforts.

^[1] “Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ^[2] You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. ^[3] You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” -2 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NIV)

2. _____ in life is by God’s hand.

^[4] “Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. ^[5] Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.” -2 Corinthians 3:4-5 (NIV)

“I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power.” -Philippians 4:13 (LB)

3. _____ is secured by God’s grace.

“He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant-not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” -2 Corinthians 3:6 (NIV)

^[7] “Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, ^[8] will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ^[9] If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!” -2 Corinthians 3:7-9 (NIV)

4. _____ in life comes from character, not reputation.

^[12] “Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ^[13] We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away.” -2 Corinthians 3:12-13 (NIV)

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” -2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)