Group Leader Guide

Acts 5:12-42 | Laurel Bunker | July 12, 2026

Main Idea

Boldness isn't about becoming fearless. It's about taking the next faithful step of obedience, trusting that the Holy Spirit gives us the courage to do what we cannot do on our own.

The apostles faced opposition because they refused to stop talking about Jesus. Instead of asking God to remove hardship, they continued obeying Him one step at a time. That same invitation is extended to us today. Courage often looks less like dramatic moments and more like everyday obedience: asking for help, choosing forgiveness, seeking healing or taking one small step toward freedom.

Icebreaker

What's something you've done that felt intimidating at first but became easier once you took the first step?

Read Together

Acts 5:12-42

As you read, pay attention to the different ways the apostles demonstrated courage. What gave them the confidence to keep following Jesus despite opposition?

Discuss

1. Laurel said that bravery isn't the absence of fear, but the power of God helping us overcome fear. How does that definition change the way you think about courage?

2. The apostles obeyed God even when it came with criticism, rejection and suffering. Where do you find it most difficult to obey God today?

3. One of the key ideas from this message was that spiritual growth often begins with one small step. Why do we sometimes wait for a dramatic change instead of taking the next faithful step?

4. Laurel gave several practical examples of courageous next steps: returning to treatment, pursuing counseling, forgiving someone, repairing relationships or asking for help. Which example resonated most with you, and why?

5. Forgiveness doesn't always mean reconciliation or pretending something never happened. Why can unforgiveness quietly become a burden we carry? What does healthy forgiveness look like?

6. Who in your life models courageous faith? What have you learned from watching them follow Jesus?

Put It Into Practice

Take a few quiet moments together and ask:

"Jesus, what is my next faithful step?"

Encourage everyone to write down one practical action they sense God inviting them to take this week. It doesn't have to be dramatic. In fact, it probably won't be. It may be making a phone call, asking for forgiveness, scheduling counseling, beginning recovery, starting a conversation, spending time in prayer or simply choosing obedience in an area you've been avoiding.

Share your next step with the group if you're comfortable, and invite someone to check in with you this week for encouragement and accountability.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for reminding us that courage isn't something we create on our own. Through Your Holy Spirit, You give us the strength to take the next step, even when we're afraid.

Help us trust You more than our fears. Give us the courage to obey You, to pursue healing where it's needed, to forgive where we've been holding on and to follow wherever You're leading.

Show each of us what our next faithful step is, and give us the strength to take it. May our lives point others to Jesus as we walk in courage and obedience.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.