**Learn in Community**



Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**How can I experience God’s power?**

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” ([John 14:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn14.12))

*When we think of power, we might think of physical strength or mental toughness. While God surely wants us to experience physical health and clarity of mind, He desires that we experience His supernatural power too.*

*In the Bible, it’s clear that our God—revealed through the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—is powerful. He spoke the world into existence and sustains the universe by the power of His Word (*[*Hebrews 1:3*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb1.3)*). God displayed His power in many ways in the Old Testament for His people. In the New Testament, Jesus’ life and works revealed His power over sickness, spiritual forces, and even the grave. After Jesus’ resurrection, God sent the Holy Spirit so we could have the power to do kingdom work today (*[*Acts 1:8*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac1.8)*). Clearly, God is powerful! But how do you and I experience His power? That’s the question we’ll explore in this volume.*

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| First time leading *Learn* for Adults? Check out the [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf). |

To access session content and videos from a computer, visit: [BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

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| **QUESTION**  Who of your acquaintances would you describe as a bold person? Why did you choose that person? |

Let’s think about what makes us bold in our faith. You may feel you lack the boldness others seem to have to express their faith. If so, you’re in good company. A brief look at the Gospels shows that even Jesus’ closest followers lacked faith at times. It’s a gift to all of us that the Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible to include the embarrassing moments when the disciples doubted and disagreed with Jesus. Then, in an epic display of doubt, they all abandoned Him when He needed them most.

Thankfully, that wasn’t the end of the disciples’ faith journey! Like some of them, you may be new to the struggle to have bold faith. You may have stumbled a time or two—or even dozens of times. But like the disciples, Jesus isn’t done with any of us. Courageous faith is a gift He can grow in our life as He faithfully has in many others.

**Watch**

As we watch this video, think about your response to this question: Think about the person you described as bold. What role does faith have in their boldness?



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**Consider What the Bible Says**

Today we’ll explore the relationship between Elijah and Elisha in the Old Testament. Through them, we’ll see how we can develop bold faith by surrounding ourself with others who have it. Elisha was mentored by the great prophet Elijah, even as his time on earth was drawing to a close. Soon it would be Elisha’s turn to become a prophetic voice to God’s people in Israel, which was not a job for the faint of heart.

We can be easily distracted by the more fantastic parts of this story, like Elijah’s earthly exit on a chariot of fire. But tucked within it are practical and straightforward steps we can take to grow our faith as we follow Jesus.

**Surround Yourself with Bold Faith**

Read [2 Kings 2:6–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki2.6-8).

Great faith can seem easier to spot in others than it is to develop in ourselves. One of the best things Elisha did to grow his faith was hang out with Elijah. Notice his determination in this passage. Elijah asked to proceed alone, but Elisha would not leave his side. One of the ingredients in bold faith is spending time with those who have more faith than we do.

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| **QUESTION**  How has spending time with someone of great faith helped you grow in your own faith journey? |

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| **QUESTION**  What steps can you take to develop determination like Elisha had to spend time with someone of great faith? |

**Choose to Take Bold Steps of Faith**

Read [2 Kings 2:9–12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki2.9-12).

Elisha already had faith before this moment. But likely, it had matured in the time he spent at the senior prophet’s side. Elisha’s faith journey was far from over. He took a bold step of faith in making a sizable request of Elijah, asking for a *double* share of the anointing his mentor possessed.

If Elisha had not taken this step of asking for a double share, he could have missed a massive opportunity in growing his faith. Taking bold steps will lead to a more daring faith in our own life as well. We need to be on the lookout for opportunities and take advantage of them more often!

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| **QUESTION**  How can we get better at recognizing opportunities to grow our faith when God places them in front of us? |

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| **QUESTION**  What are some opportunities to take a bold step of faith that you might have missed on your journey? |

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| **QUESTION**  What is a bold step you have taken that led you to grow in your faith? |

**Trust God to Honor Your Bold Faith**

Read [2 Kings 2:13–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki2.13-15).

Elisha, moving in full faith that he had received what he had asked for, walked back to the river Elijah had just parted and put his faith to the test. This moment could have further increased his confidence or diminished it. Thankfully, God empowered Elisha just as He had Elijah.

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| **QUESTION**  What are some reasons we hesitate to exercise our faith and ask God to do big things? |

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| **QUESTION**  What is a big prayer of faith you’ve seen God answer in your life? How can reflecting on it strengthen your faith now? |

**Did You Know?**

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| *Elijah’s gift from God of seemingly being spared a natural death served as a major point of focus surrounding Elijah in the New Testament period. Elijah, along with Enoch, became key figures in non-biblical, Jewish literature, specifically in the Apocalyptic genre. These two men were described as serving a unique purpose for the Messiah (and the Second Coming for Christians). This connection continues today during the celebration of Passover. Modern Jews leave a seat open in case Elijah appears and wants to eat with them, heralding in the Messiah (or return of the Messiah for Messianic Jews).* |

**Reflect**

**I Have Bold Faith**

Parting rivers isn’t usually included in our everyday experience with God. Most of us probably don’t know anyone who went to heaven in a whirlwind either. But the beauty of this story is in the steps Elisha took that we can also easily replicate in our own life.

Bold faith isn’t far away. It’s not a distant destination that few can ever reach. So take a bold step of faith in your life. It doesn’t have to be as epic as parting a river with a piece of clothing, but God will honor your steps just the same. Our God wants to grow bold faith in each believer’s life. We don’t need to hesitate in asking. He won’t hesitate in answering.

**Listen to God**

Let’s pause and listen to what God might want to say to us about what we have read and shared. Be silent for a few moments and reflect on the following questions. Respond to the one that most resonates with what God is saying to you now. Then complete the others during Day 1 of your devotion time this week.

**Personal Reflection Questions**

*Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.*

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| **QUESTION**  Before looking at how you want to grow, take a moment to celebrate how far you’ve already come. How has God already grown your faith? |

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| **QUESTION**  Think of the boldest step of faith you’ve ever taken. What would it look like to double it, so to speak? Do you trust that God would honor such a big move in your life of faith? |

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| **QUESTION**  Take a moment to dream about what a bold, double-share life of faith would look like for you if you weren’t afraid of anything. What would that look like in your family, your church, your workplace, and your community? Now write those thoughts out as a prayer to God. Don’t skip any of the areas mentioned above—and feel free to add more! |

**Activate**

Faith isn’t passive. It requires consistent action, and is meant to be lived out every day. That means faith is meant to have opportunities to grow. If we only make a little effort, we’ll see little growth. If we go boldly, we’ll likely see a more significant increase. It’s up to us to take every opportunity to exercise the faith God puts in our life. Through those opportunities, we can grow into the man or woman of God that He has called us to be.

**Challenge**

Think about the people in your life who demonstrate bold faith. This week, invite one of them to join you for lunch, coffee, or a video conference call. Tell them you admire their faith and want to learn more about what God has done in their life to increase it. Prepare some questions to ask them when you meet with them.

**Prayer Requests**

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| Note any requests from the group and remember to pray for them during the week. |

Before next time, continue to spend time in God’s Word with the personal devotions.

**What We Believe**

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| **Official Doctrine**  Faith is given prominent emphasis because Scripture gives it prominence. The writer to the Hebrews points out that without faith it is impossible to please God. Then he describes faith as believing two things—that God is, and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him ([Hebrews 11:6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb11.6)). All the blessings which God has for His people are received through faith. Salvation ([Acts 16:31](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac16.31)), baptism in the Holy Spirit ([Acts 11:15–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac11.15-17)), divine preservation ([1 Peter 1:5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Pe1.5)), inheritance of the promises which include healing and provision of material needs ([Hebrews 6:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb6.12)), and motivation for witnessing ([2 Corinthians 4:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co4.13)) are among the many provisions of God’s grace.  Today, as in every generation, it is important for believers to be mindful of the example in Scripture of being strong in faith ([Romans 4:20–24](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro4.20-24)). They must be on guard against anything which would weaken or destroy faith. They need to pray for its increase ([Luke 17:5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk17.5)) and constantly seek to cultivate it through reading the Word of God ([Romans 10:17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro10.17)). |

**Learn on Your Own**

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| *Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.* |

**Day 1: I Have Bold Faith**

Read [2 Kings 2:6–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki2.6-15).

Look back over Learn in Community and complete your responses to the Personal Reflection Questions. Plan how to complete the Activate component if you haven’t already done so. If time permits, reread the Scripture too.

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| **QUESTION**  What is God saying to you about having bold faith? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 2: Bold Faith Is for the Imperfect**

Read [Acts 2:14–21](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac2.14-21).

Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost is an excellent example of bold faith. About a month and a half earlier, Peter was guilty of one of the most well-known failures in Scripture—denying he knew Jesus ([Luke 22:54–62](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk22.54-62)). The beauty of this example is that because of God’s grace, missing the target doesn’t disqualify us from having the faith to stand up for Jesus as Peter did on the day the Church was born.

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| **QUESTION**  How have you seen people allow past moments of failure to define them? How can you keep yourself from making that mistake? |

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| **QUESTION**  What do you need to ask God to do in your life so you can move beyond past shortcomings and focus on how God can use you now and in the future? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 3: The Faith to Face Giants**

Read [1 Samuel 17:32–37](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Sa17.32-37), [45–49](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Sa17.45-49).

While your giants likely won’t be named Goliath, you will face big challenges in life. Adversity comes in all shapes and sizes. You will need bold faith to overcome it. David’s first moment of bold faith wasn’t when he faced Goliath. David had already faced a lion and a bear, which are both scary enough. To stand up to greater giants in our life tomorrow, we need to confront the smaller giants today. We can take a stand knowing God will honor our faith and increase it.

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think David was the only Israelite willing to stand against Goliath? |

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| **QUESTION**  Who is someone in your life who has overcome giants with bold faith? What can you learn from them? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 4: Bold Faith Has a Cost**

Read [Acts 6:8–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac6.8-15); [7:51–60](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac7.51-60).

Stephen paid the ultimate price for his bold faith. It’s unlikely God will ask most of us to do the same. But bold faith requires a willingness to make sacrifices to stand firm for the gospel. The question is whether we’ll shrink in the face of opposition. Stephen didn’t stand firm because he had some sort of unique Christian power. He was just like you and me, which means our faith can become as bold as his!

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| **QUESTION**  How do you think Stephen was able to have such bold faith in the face of deadly opposition? |

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| **QUESTION**  Verse [51](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac7.51) begins with Stephen calling the crowd “stubborn” and “heathen.” It ends with him asking God not to hold them accountable for his death. How do you see these two things fitting together? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 5: Bold Faith and Right Attitudes**

Read [Acts 10:9–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac10.9-16).

At first, Peter and some Jewish believers struggled to understand that God desired to save everyone, not just the people of Israel. God had big plans for Peter, but first Peter needed a new way of seeing the world. Peter needed to operate in bold faith as he preached the gospel. To walk in the level of confidence God desires, we need to have our mind and thinking changed by His truth, just as Peter did.

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| **QUESTION**  Peter’s thinking and attitude toward the Gentiles hindered him from boldly proclaiming the gospel as he should. How might similar attitudes be hindering you as well? |

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| **QUESTION**  What is an example of how you’re learning to love difficult people in the world around you? |