**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Believe Boldly**

Review the video for this session.



**Engage**

Read [Mark 10:46–52](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk10.46-52).

**Consider**

Bartimaeus showed courage as he yelled out for Jesus despite others trying to quiet him. On that day, with Jesus close by, nothing stopped him from pursuing the One who could offer the kind of help he needed. To the crowd’s surprise, Jesus heard the shouts and then told the crowd to call Bartimaeus to come over to Him. Because of Bartimaeus’s strong faith, Jesus restored his sight and allowed Bartimaeus to join Him on His journey.

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think Bartimaeus was so bold as to continue to call out to Jesus regardless of what the crowd said? |

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| **QUESTION**  If you were in Bartimaeus’s situation, what do you think you would have done when everyone told you to be quiet? |

**Reflect**

We need to keep in mind that there are people who want to discourage us from pursuing Jesus. We need to commit to calling on Jesus in spite of them. As we grow in faith in Jesus, we should also grow in boldness. A relationship with Jesus is far more important than what others around us may think!

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| **QUESTION**  Has someone discouraged you from pursuing Jesus? If so, how did you respond? |

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| **QUESTION**  What is a next step for you to take to grow bolder when it comes to asking Jesus for help? |

**Activate**

Think of something you have been wanting to call on Jesus for. Write it down and place it somewhere you will see it every day. Then tell a trusted friend or mentor about it as well. This way, they can pray with you and keep you accountable to see the answer. Then every time you see it written on that paper or you see that friend or mentor, take time to pray boldly for your need.

**Pray**

Dear God, I pray my relationship with You would be strong enough to endure even the harshest of critics throughout my life. I ask for Your help, Holy Spirit, to give me a strong and bold faith so I can live the life I was created to live. Amen.

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**Day 2: I’ve Got the Power**

**Engage**

Read [Luke 22:54–63](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk22.54-63).

**Consider**

Immediately following His arrest, Jesus was brought in to face false accusations and then be beaten. Shortly after this passage, He would die on a cross for our sins. Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, was following closely behind Him during this time. Peter was one of Jesus’ boldest followers and perhaps one of His closest friends. But when Peter was questioned by others regarding his connection to Jesus, he denied that he even knew who Jesus was.

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think Peter denied knowing Jesus? |

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| **QUESTION**  How do you think Peter felt after denying Jesus? |

Maybe you’ve never verbally denied Jesus, but maybe you have stayed silent and didn’t stand up or say anything for Jesus to the crowd.

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| **QUESTION**  How is saying nothing like denying Jesus? |

**Reflect**

Perhaps you’ve been in a situation like Peter’s when your faith in Jesus was questioned, and you failed the test. Most likely, we all have denied our relationship with Jesus at some point. As bold as we attempt to be with our faith in Jesus, there are moments when the crowd, or even an individual, can stand in the way of our faith. Thankfully, we have a Savior who understands our weaknesses and is willing to forgive us. Not only this, but He is willing to help us so we can stand bolder the next time.

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| **QUESTION**  Do you have a difficult time being bold for Jesus? If so, why do you think that is? |

**Activate**

Take a moment to really think about that question in the Reflect section. Then read [John 21:15–21](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn21.15-21). This took place after Jesus was resurrected and met up with His disciples again. Notice how Jesus wasn’t angry at Peter for denying Him, but rather, He challenged Peter to continue to be a part of His mission. The message to us? Don’t give up. You are still a part of Jesus’ mission, even if you make a mistake.

**Pray**

Dear God, I want to live out my life in the fullness You created for me. I want to be able to live each day walking in bold faith like You say I can. I want the power of Your Holy Spirit to be used in my daily life. Thank You for not giving up on me and still believing in me. Amen.

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**Day 3: What Do I Win?**

**Engage**

Read [Galatians 1:6–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ga1.6-10).

**Consider**

Paul is calling out the Galatian church for being so easily swayed by other people’s opinions and teachings. They knew what it meant to be a follower of Jesus’ teachings, yet they allowed themselves to be convinced otherwise. This appears to be because of their unsteady faith. Paul ended the passage with a statement many people today struggle to live up to. Paul challenged us with the reminder that he had no problem standing up for the true teachings of the gospel because he wasn’t concerned with what others thought. He was only concerned with what God wanted from him.

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| **QUESTION**  What do you imagine the Galatians were thinking as they read what Paul had written to them? |

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| **QUESTION**  Is there any part of your faith that is easily shaken by others? If so, what is it, and why can others influence you about it? |

**Reflect**

We have to recognize that there will always be people challenging the things we are taught in the Bible. That means you need to be regularly reading and applying God’s Word. This helps to get the truth of the Bible in your heart and mind. The more we can engage with Scripture, the more we will understand and believe what it says. This will, in turn, make it easier to fight off discouragement from others.

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| **QUESTION**  Think of a time you allowed your opinions to change based off wanting to win the approval of those around you. Why do you think you did this? |

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| **QUESTION**  What can you do next time to make sure you stay true to the truth of God’s Word instead of letting what others say sway you in a different direction? |

**Activate**

It’s so important to have the Bible planted deeply in our heart and mind. A great way to do this is to memorize Scripture. Take the next few days to memorize [Galatians 1:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ga1.10). Then, when you start to feel your boldness wavering, the Holy Spirit will bring this verse to your mind.

**Pray**

Dear God, I want to be rooted in the truth of the gospel always. I pray You would instill a boldness in my mind to stand firm in Your teachings and Your ways for my life. Amen.

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**Day 4: Boldly to the Throne**

**Engage**

Read [Hebrews 4:14–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb4.14-16).

**Consider**

In the Old Testament, it was always the man with the title of high priest who went to God on behalf of the people. He would go to God to ask Him to set aside their sins. However, this New Testament passage is expressing the truth that Jesus is our Great High Priest. He is far greater than any other, and today He goes to God the Father on our behalf.

Because of the grace we now have in Jesus, our Great High Priest, we can come to Him boldly. We can ask in faith and without doubt. Like a child going to their father, we have been adopted by God, our Heavenly Father, and we have the authority to go to Him as such.

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| **QUESTION**  How is it we are to go to the throne of our gracious God? (See verse [16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb4.16).) |

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| **QUESTION**  What is it we are to hold firmly to? (See verse [14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb4.14).) Why do you think this is? |

**Reflect**

We serve an incredibly gracious God. Far too many times, people don’t think they can go to Him because of something they have done. However, if we can learn to boldly call on God, like a child to a loving father, we will see that He has tremendous mercy and grace to help us whenever we ask. It’s important that we hold tight to what we believe. Otherwise, we can easily forget that God is a gracious God who invites us to come to Him.

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| **QUESTION**  What hinders you from going all in with Jesus? |

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| **QUESTION**  What do you think could happen in your life if you started to boldly approach God? |

**Activate**

Find a pastor, leader, or mentor who can help to challenge you to have a bold faith. Ask that person to take time to pray with you for more of that faith to be present in your life.

**Pray**

Dear God, I don’t want to be scared to come to You out of fear of judgment and shame. I want to come boldly to You to receive Your grace and mercy. Holy Spirit, help me to see my Heavenly Father for who He truly is. Amen.

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**Day 5: Do It No Matter What**

**Engage**

Read [2 Corinthians 6:3–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co6.3-10).

**Consider**

What a list Paul, the author, was sharing with the Corinthians of all the trials and hardships he had endured as a faithful follower of Jesus! He was trying to leave an example of how we should live. But we also see him list all the rewards and resources he had access to as a faithful follower of Jesus. In the end, he addressed something Christians must still battle today. No matter what people say to or about us, we must still choose to boldly serve Jesus.

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| **QUESTION**  How does Paul challenge us to live according to verses [3–4](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co6.3-4)? |

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| **QUESTION**  What do you think went through the minds of the Corinthian people when Paul listed all the hardships and struggles he had endured as a follower of Jesus? |

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| **QUESTION**  What are some struggles the Christians in Paul’s day dealt with that are similar to what we deal with today? |

**Reflect**

As you read through Scripture, you’ll often come across heroes of the faith who endured way more hardship and difficulties than we could imagine in our world today. Let’s be thankful for the blessings we have, but not be too comfortable in our Christianity. If we do, we may lose sight of what it means to truly live for Jesus. As we start to live more boldly, there may be opposition that comes our way. We must then do as Paul tells us in verse [6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co6.6) and rely even more heavily on the Holy Spirit.

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| **QUESTION**  What hardships, troubles, or difficulties have you endured because of your faith in Jesus? |

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| **QUESTION**  What can you do to help yourself as people try to discourage you because of your faith in Jesus? |

**Activate**

One of the most beneficial things we can do as Christians in the face of adversity is to surround ourselves with godly people who help encourage us and keep us standing firm in our faith. Write down a list of your closest friends and then ask yourself: *Are these people the ones I want in my corner when my faith is challenged? Will they help push me closer to Jesus or pull me further away?*

**Pray**

Dear God, I know I will face difficulties and hardships as Your faithful follower. My prayer today would be that I can stand firm in my faith, rely on godly peers and mentors, and trust in the Holy Spirit to help me every day. Amen.