

Lesson #2: Praying Boldly – United in Prayer 2026 – Teen Lessons

Primary Text: Acts 4:23-31

Intro: This text is a prayer offered by Jesus' followers as they faced great opposition in spreading the gospel. Though they had just faced their first of many prison sentences, the believers gathered to pray for boldness amidst their persecution that they may speak God's word.

Key Point: Acting *Boldly* is an important virtue because it causes us to find our strength and confidence in the Lord, and it moves us into places we'd rather not go, so that God's word might be heard and witnessed.

READ and DISCUSS: Acts 4:23-31

- Go back and read what happens just before this prayer in **Acts 4:18-22**. Notice how Peter and John respond after being asked not to speak. How is our boldness related to who we are seeking to please, or receive validation from?
- **After Peter and John are threatened, what is the first thing the believers do?** What does their response tell us about where they turned when they faced opposition?
- **In verses 24–28, the believers spend much of their prayer focusing on who God is and what He has done.** Why might remembering God's power and sovereignty give us confidence to pray boldly?
- **The believers don't ask God to remove the people who are threatening them. What do they ask God for instead (v. 29)?** What does this teach us about what biblical boldness looks like?
- **Verse 31 says that after they prayed, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued speaking the word of God boldly.** What connection do you see between prayer, the Holy Spirit, and boldness?

READ and DISCUSS: Daniel 3:1-30 (a long section but worth the time!)

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew exactly what would happen if they refused to worship the golden image. **What gave them the courage to stand firm anyway?** (vv. 16–18).
- In verse 17, they say, **“Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.”** How is believing that God *can* do something different from believing that God *will* do exactly what we want?

- **Verse 18 says, “But even if he does not...”** What does this phrase teach us about praying boldly while still trusting God's will?
- **How would you describe the difference between boldness and recklessness?** How do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego demonstrate boldness without demanding that God rescue them?
- Nebuchadnezzar pressured the three men to compromise their worship. **What kinds of pressure might teenagers experience today to compromise their faith or beliefs?**

APPLICATION: Practicing Prayers of Boldness

- Is there a difference between **being bold** and **being brash**? If so, how are they different? What are some things Christians **should** be boldly vocal about?
- What **fears** keep you from speaking in boldness? Why do you think that is?
- How can we both **“pray boldly”** and also pray **“but even if you don’t...”** at the same time? How might praying that way be beneficial to our walk?
- **Who is someone you know who prays, speaks, or acts boldly?** Consider making time to sit down and have a discussion with them about how you might grow in your boldness.
- **If you were to pray one bold prayer based on Daniel 3 and Acts 4 right now, what would you ask God for?** What would it look like to trust Him with the outcome?

Song Suggestions:

- Light the Fire
- Battle Belongs
- Stand in Your Love
- Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)
- Standing on the Promises

Possible Activity: Boldness Notecards

- Pass out 3x5 notecards to the students, and something to write with.
- On one side have them write “Daniel 3:18”
- On the other side, have them write out this pattern for praying boldly:
 - “God, I know You can _____.
Please give me the boldness to _____.
But if You don’t _____, help me to trust You anyway.
Give me the courage to remain faithful because _____.”
- Keep this in a Bible as a reminder to pray boldly, and pray “Even If you don’t” prayers!