



RISK

No Risk, No Reward

#nprisk

Week 3
3 of 4
March 19, 2017

Bottom Line: We have to risk being bold to get the reward from sharing Christ.

Icebreaker: What's the most irrational fear you have experienced?

Key Verse: "Salvation is found in no one else." Acts 4:13

Peter had once been terrified of being associated with Jesus. He denied he knew Jesus, he cowered in front of a young girl, and he ran from confrontation. That was before the Resurrection, before the Holy Spirit came in answer to Jesus' promise. Now everything had changed. He and John were so bold, they were actively fulfilling the promise Jesus made to them when He first called them: "I will make you fishers of men." At this point in time, they had shared the message so effectively that there were about 5,000 adult men believers, plus the women and children in their families.

Peter and John attracted so much attention that the council of religious law hauled them in to demand who gave them the authority to do what they were doing. No cowering this time. They jumped right into the heart of the message of Jesus. They told the very people capable of making their lives miserable that not only were they doing it in the name of Jesus, there was no other name under heaven that could save. Salvation could be found in no one else. They knew that everyone needed that message because they would never be able to figure it out on their own. They were willing to take the risk of sharing the truth.

Of course there was resistance. Of course it was messy. They were ordered not to speak of this again. Calmly and firmly they declared, "We hear what you say, but we can't stop speaking about this! We know it is absolute truth!" Incredibly bold. Yet when they were released and gathered with their friends, they prayed for MORE boldness and courage to keep sharing the only thing that could ever change lives. They KNEW God was in control, God was active, and He had invited them to be part of His great movement in history. They could afford to be bold and courageous. The reward would be worth the risk. So they "testified boldly to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all." Acts 4:33

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on the message, what did Dwight share that most spoke to you?

What makes you reluctant to start a faith conversation with someone you don't know? Someone you DO know?

The main motivation Peter and John had to take the risk is that "Salvation is found in no one else." Jesus is the only hope. How does that motivate you?

Do you have more problems seeing the opportunity or acting on it boldly?

How would your motivation and courage change if you really absorbed the attitude that God is in control, God is active and moving, God has invited me to be part of His movement in the world?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

What usually prompts you to take the risk and begin sharing the good news with someone?

These two keys typically open the door for a good conversation:

Things that are NOT GOING WELL.
Things that are NOT PREPARED FOR.

What opened the opportunity for you to hear the good news? What might have been a risk the person who shared with you felt?

We heard the powerful story of Peter and John. Isn't it likely that the Holy Spirit would have the same effect on you as them if you were bold enough to take the risk?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

- 1) Pray together for the Easter service participants to be powerfully used by God.
- 2) Pray that each one of you will have at least one bold conversation to share next week.

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: We have to risk being bold to get the reward from sharing Christ.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Acts 4:13

Day 2: Acts 4:5-11

Day 3: Acts 4:13-17

Day 4: Acts 4:18-22

Day 5: Acts 4:23-31

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)