

WEEK 4

TEACHING GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Jesus sends us out boldly.

BIBLE

Matthew 10:26-31; 2 Corinthians 4:5-7;
Psalm 100:5

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Confidence Test

- Welcome to the final week of *Sent Together*, a series where we've been talking about a big challenge Jesus gave all of us. But before we talk about that big challenge, let's see how well you perform in a slightly smaller challenge.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before your teaching time, identify three adults who each have a unique skill that could help them win a youth group game. This could be anything from catching miniature marshmallows with their mouth to quickly solving math problems in their head. Work with those volunteers to set up three simple, 30-second competitions that capitalize on their unique talents. When you're ready to play, invite three students to come to the front, and ask each of them to choose one adult to compete against – but don't tell them what the challenge is until they have chosen their opponents.
- We have some incredible and uniquely talented volunteers in this room. But I have a couple of questions for our competitors.
 - For the adult volunteers, **why did you choose that skill as the one you wanted to compete with?**
 - And for our challengers, **knowing what you know now, would you have chosen a different competitor if you could go back and choose again?**
- Stepping up here and agreeing to a compete in an unknown competition is risky and could result in a pretty lopsided defeat. It takes boldness to put your skills on display like that and it takes boldness to be willing to try something new, unknown, or intimidating.

QUESTION | "Do you usually think of boldness as a positive or negative trait?"

- I just gave you an example of how boldness can be a positive trait, but sometime the phrase "that's bold" isn't exactly a compliment. Boldness can sometimes be a word people use to mean:
 - Loud.

- Forceful.
- Uninformed.
- Arrogant.
- Do you usually think of boldness as a positive or negative trait? Why?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give a few students a chance to respond.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion time and save it for small groups!
 - What's the boldest thing you've ever done? How do you feel about that choice now?
 - When have you seen someone be bold in a good way? Why was their example inspiring?

QUESTION | "How bold do you think you are?"

- It's easy to notice boldness when we see it in other people, but sometimes it can be hard to notice in ourselves. **How bold do you think you are? Explain!**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give a few students a chance to respond.

POLL | Bold Takes

- No matter how bold you think you are (or aren't), we all have some opinions we'd be willing to stand up and shout about. So let's see if we can uncover any bold opinions in this room.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For each of the following questions, invite students to respond by either cheering, raising their hands, or moving to different sides of the room you designate for each option.
 - **If you had to eliminate one of these breakfast foods forever, which would you choose?**
 - Pancakes.
 - Waffles.
 - French toast.
 - Cinnamon rolls.
 - **What should green candy taste like?**
 - Lime.
 - Apple.
 - **Is a hot dog a sandwich?**
 - Yes, it's meat inside of bread.
 - No, what?!
 - **How do you pronounce "G—I—F"?**
 - Like the peanut butter.
 - Like "gift" without the "t."
 - **Does pineapple belong on pizza?**
 - Yes, delicious.
 - No, hate it.
- Okay, that escalated to exactly the level I thought it would. In reality, I think we all have bold takes, bold dreams, and bold decisions we want to make.
- We are all a little bolder than we think we are — but maybe we've just . . .
 - Misunderstood exactly what it means to be bold.
 - Been bold about things that don't really matter that much.
 - Failed to be bold about the things that really do matter.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion time and save it for small groups! If you have fewer than 15 students, the starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them for middle schoolers.*
 - * What do you think motivates people to do bold things, even when it's scary or difficult?
 - * What are some opinions or causes you'd be willing to boldly stand up for?

STORY | Talk about a time someone you know showed boldness.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about someone who was bold in the way they took a stand, made a difference, or advocated for others. You might share the story of someone like the artist Danielle Coke, who used her art to advocate for others and spread awareness and education about justice issues. You can hear more about her story (or show a brief clip of her story) [here](#). For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- Maybe this story gets you excited because it reminds you of all kinds of ways you can step up. Or maybe it made you feel intimidated — like, "Good for them, but that'll never be me."
 - We all have different personalities, talents, and gifts that push us to interact with the world in different ways, and that's amazing. God created us all to be unique and work together as we carry out this mission.
 - So the real question we have to ask ourselves is, "What does boldness look like for me?"

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 10:26-31

- To help us answer that question, let's take a look at one of the times Jesus' twelve disciples may have been wondering the same thing.
 - In the passage we're about to read, Jesus is sending his twelve closest disciples out into the world to share his message more broadly.
 - Up until this point, these twelve had spent their time following Jesus' lead — they hadn't really done much on their own yet, without Jesus beside them.
 - Before they left on their journeys, Jesus decided to take some time to explain what was coming next and how they could be prepared.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Matthew 10:26-31.*
- Jesus was sending these twelve people into the world with all the information they'd need to be successful.
 - This was a big deal because these twelve hadn't had the formal religious training other leaders of their day would've received. Plus, many of the established leaders already didn't like Jesus because he thought differently than they did.
 - So Jesus let his followers know they might be treated harshly for what they taught about him. Jesus didn't try to make this mission sound easier than it would be — he told his disciples straight to their faces, "People might hate you for this."
- This isn't exactly the kind of pep talk I would want before heading out on my own for the first time, but thankfully this isn't Jesus' main message. Yes, these twelve were going to face some real threats, but they could be confident the truth they were carrying, and the love they had to share, was worth the risk.

GOSPEL | THE GOSPEL, instructing how to talk about it and have easy language to use

- Jesus Sends us on a mission. Jesus sends us to bring healing. Jesus sends us out together. **Jesus Sends us out boldly.**
- Let's see how well you can share the gospel, because It starts with knowing the Gospel.

- The gospel simply means to share the Good News. The good news about JESUS!
- Let's jump in together.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show slide with 'The Gospel – Missing all words'*
 - This whole series, we have been learning the gospel. Putting words to what we believe. Today is a test... a pop quiz.
 - Can I get a volunteer that feel confident they can walk through the gospel?
 - (*Slides to load: Arrows only, Icons only, All Words & All Words & Prayer*)
- *Speaker Note: Choose a student who feels confident. Help them, without giving the answers. Lean into the crowd to help them along, if needed.*
 - **What's the Missing word? GOD** - All of us were created to be in a relationship with Him. Genesis 1:27
 - **What's the Missing word? SIN** - Because of sin, that relationship was broken. Romans 3:23
 - **What's the Missing word? JESUS** - Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave to pay the penalty for our sins and fix what has been broken. John 3:16
 - **What's the Missing word? GIFT** - Jesus offers forgiveness and eternity in heaven as a free gift. Ephesians 2:8-9
 - **What's the Missing word? CHOICE** - God loves us completely, so he allows us to choose whether to receive or reject this gift. Romans 10:9-10
- **RESPONSE TIME** – When sharing the gospel with others, ask them to respond. It could look like this...
 - **You can make this choice today.**
 - If you haven't made this choice yet, what is holding you back? (listen to their response)
 - If they want to make a decision, take time to pray with them...
- Pray with me something like this: (*show as slide on the screen – 'The Gospel with prayer'*)
 - **Dear God,** I know I have disobeyed You and I need you. My sin separates me from you. I am sorry I have disobeyed you, but today I turn back to You. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and that my sins can be forgiven. I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive. I trust Jesus to save me. God thank you for your forgiveness and help me to obey you and live for you the rest of my life. **Amen**
- If someone prays that prayer with you! That's amazing! Get them connected to a church that can walk alongside them to help them grow in their relationship with you Jesus.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion time and save it for small groups! If you have fewer than 15 students, the starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them for middle schoolers.*
 - **Who is someone who helps you have boldness in your faith? How do they do that?**
 - *** Why do you think Jesus' disciples believed his mission was worth the risks they were taking? Do you think you'd make the same choice if you were in their position?**

SCRIPTURE | 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

- Not long after this took place, a man named Paul came along and went from being someone who mistreated Christians to being a follower of Jesus himself. Paul went from being boldly against Jesus' message to being bold in a very different way.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-7.*

- Like Paul, our boldness can serve a bigger purpose for Jesus' mission. We carry a light within us that points people to who God is. That is our mission.
 - Jesus encourages us to be sent out with confidence, but it's not in and of our own ability. Our boldness is not based on how amazing, flawless, or convincing we can be in an argument. Our boldness is based on something greater than ourselves and something worth fighting for.
 - When Paul said we could be like jars of clay holding treasure, it's to show the value Jesus adds to the message we have to share. You and I might seem ordinary, but with Jesus we are filled with a treasure that's ready to be poured out for others.
- Jesus has empowered us with the story and love our world needs. Because we can have confidence in Jesus' power and strength (and not our own) we don't have to be timid. We can be confident because **Jesus sends us out boldly** — together.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

OBJECT LESSON | A Bold Offer

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, place a prize (like a gift card, candy bar, or your ministry swag) inside a simple cardboard box. Tell one person what's inside the box and make sure they keep it a secret. During your teaching time, tell one student they can either have what's inside the box or sell the box to the person who knows what is inside. Give your volunteer candy, money, or another type of currency to use and have them try to buy the box from the student. When the deal is made, have the student open the box and share what's inside.*
- Whether you were the brave person playing this game or sitting there shouting your opinion as to what they should do, **how much more confidence did you have in the value of the mystery box as the game went along?**
 - At first, it may have been easy to assume this box was just full of packing peanuts. But knowing someone had already seen what was inside and was willing to pay for it probably made it easier to assume there was something good inside.
 - When someone boldly stepped in to vouch for the value of this "treasure," it became easier for us to want to boldly claim what was inside.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion time and save it for small groups! If you have fewer than 15 students, the starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them for middle schoolers.*
 - *** Why do you think it can be so difficult to share our own stories and beliefs about Jesus with boldness? Are any of those reasons true for you?**
 - Read Psalm 100:5. How can noticing God's faithfulness in the past help us be bolder in the future?

REFLECTION | Honesty Practice

- If you've met Jesus and he's made a difference in your life in any way, you have a story to share and a treasure to give the world.
 - You don't need to have the most dramatic or eventful story of faith that's ever been told. Your story matters, just the way it is.
 - Your story of faith (even if you feel like it's new or still in progress) is already a story people need to hear. Your experience with Jesus may help someone get curious about him and experiencing his love for the first time.
- But I get it — it's probably not enough for you to hear me say that to you. You might need some more convincing before you feel bold enough to truly share your story of faith. So let's start practicing honestly with each other (and with ourselves) to help us develop the boldness we need on our mission. I wonder what would happen if we were . . .
 - **HONEST ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE.** What's one opportunity you see in front of you right now? What step will you take? This might be an opportunity to show Jesus' love by volunteering or serving somewhere. It might be a friend you want to invite to church. It might be a conversation you want to have with someone you haven't had yet. Write out what this opportunity could be, why you want to do it, and what it would feel like to follow through with this plan.
 - **HONEST ABOUT THE HESITATIONS WE HAVE.** Then make a list of any hesitations you have about taking that step. What scares you? What's the worst that could happen? What thoughts pop into your head when you think about taking that next step?
 - **HONEST WITH EACH OTHER.** Boldness doesn't come easily. It takes time, intentionality, and honesty to develop the kind of confidence in ourselves, in Jesus, and in our mission we need to move with boldness. The good news is, it's not on any one of us to develop that kind of boldness by ourselves. We have God and we have each other.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 4 folder. Place one under each seat, along with a pen. Give students some time to write, reflect, and consider what the prompts on the handout mean for them.*
- So what could it look like for us to be bold about Jesus' mission? There are so many options, but here are three simple steps we could all take this week.
 - **STEP INTO HONESTY.** When we are confident that Jesus loves us and has invited us to join him on this mission, we don't have to pretend we are something we're not. If you're unsure of where to start or feel uncomfortable being loud or bold in the way other people might be, that's okay! Jesus is calling you into this mission exactly as you are. So be you, be real, and be confident that who you are is exactly who Jesus wants to use.
 - **STEP TOWARD SOMEONE.** Make a plan to take the first step and share Jesus' love with someone this week. Maybe this looks like texting a friend with an invite to church, sharing your story with someone you know, or asking someone about their faith journey to learn from them and start a conversation. Your job is not to control where exactly this first step will end up taking you but to be confident that Jesus is calling you to make a bold move, even if it feels small.
 - **STEP TOGETHER.** Being bold is a lot easier in a group than it is all by yourself. So remember, this mission is not about what any one of us can do, it's about what we all can do together. Talk to your friends, leaders, and small group this week about the bold steps you want to take. Be honest with one another about your fears or hesitations. And encourage one another because encouragement and honest conversation builds confidence and boldness in all of us.
- As you leave here this week, I hope you choose to be more bold about things that matter. And the mission Jesus has invited us to be a part of is the most important mission there is.
- You may not always feel confident in yourself or your ability to share Jesus' message with your words or actions. But we can be confident because we're not alone. **Jesus sends us out boldly** — together.

DISCUSSION

- INSTRUCTIONS: *If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion time and save it for small groups!*
 - How can our group help each other grow in confidence about our ability to share with others the good news of Jesus?
 - What is one bold step you want to take on your mission this week?