

What Would You Risk For Love?

Date: 2/14/16

Read Together

Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.

Scripture passage: Acts 4

What would you risk for love? Our immediate response screams, “everything,” but in reality there are only a few things we would truly risk it all for. But for the disciples, the love they had for Jesus filled them with the courage and conviction to conquer any fears they had in proclaiming the name of Jesus to those around them. Jesus had captivated their hearts, so instead of living inhibited by fear, they were emboldened with faith. What about Christians today? Unfortunately, we are often strong in our gatherings but weak in our scatterings. We find it easy to sing songs of love to God on Sundays, but when Monday comes, we whisper short refrains under our breath rather than shouting the Gospel that has the power to save those around us from the rooftops. Whatever you are shouting about, you are passionate about. Will you allow the Holy Spirit to captivate you in such a way that Jesus is reflected in your actions and attitudes?

Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise** God for His authority, His grace, and His unconditional love.
- **Repent** for any indifference or lack of passion in sharing the Gospel.
- **Ask** the Holy Spirit to captivate you in such a way as to reflect Jesus in all you do.
- **Yield** to the Spirit’s power and obey!

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion with your Life Group.

- Who or what is your first love?
- How do you display your love for this person or thing?
- Discuss a time when you chose to be bold in your faith rather than inhibited by fear.

Read Acts 4:1-12

- What were Peter and John doing that annoyed the Sadducees?
- What had they done previously that caused the Sadducees to seek them out? (See Acts 3:1-10)
- Read and discuss Peter’s bold statement concerning the “power” used to heal the crippled man, and his proclamation concerning Jesus as the Cornerstone.



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- Peter and John chose to live a life of such devotion to Jesus that, regardless of the consequences, they spoke truth concerning the Sadducees' role in Jesus' crucifixion. How would you rate your devotion to Jesus? Do you take risks when it comes to sharing the Gospel with others? Are you quick to use opportunities to speak about the Gospel with unbelievers? Why or why not?

Read Acts 4:13-22

- Verse 13 says the Council recognized that Peter and John had been with Jesus. Pastor McKinley reminded us that, "real love reveals association." What do your associations reveal about you? Would you characterize yourself as an authentic Christian? Would others characterize you in this way?
- What or whom do you need to disassociate yourself with out of obedience to Christ?
- Peter and John were not concerned about controversy or adversity. In Acts 3:11-12 and 18-20, they stated their case for Christ with boldness. Do you have this kind of attitude when it comes to sharing your faith?
- Why do you feel like it is so difficult to share your faith, especially if you are sharing with someone really close to you?
- What happened to Peter and John as a result of their boldness to share Christ?

Read Acts 23-37

- What happened once Peter and John were released?
- Do you regularly pray for boldness to share the Gospel?
- Who are you being intentional about sharing your faith with this year?
- True love reflects action. How are we to love Christ? (See Mark 12:30-31)
- What does Jesus tell Peter about showing His love in John 21:15-19?
- Do your actions show that you love Jesus above all others?
- Read John 13:35 & 15:13. Do your actions show that you love others with Christ-like love?

Do Life Together

These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader's responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately, a disciple-maker.

- What is keeping you from sharing your faith this week? Will you pray and ask God for opportunities and boldness to share the Gospel?



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