

## ***Family Faith Connection Week 9/Day 2***

## ***Scripture Reference: Acts 4:11-14 COURAGE***



*\*Read today's Scripture Verses:*

*Courage to stand. One of the hardest moments in our lives is the ability to take the time to speak when the chance arises. We are able to hear so many people bash God and we just sit back and allow it to happen. We are in fear that if we begin a conversation or debate, we will be unprepared to really be able to defend the gospel properly...so what do we do... We just stand there and allow the words to be said and we shake them off with the understanding that it didn't effect me... but didn't it?*

*In understanding the idea of the 40 day challenge mixed with our Phase 1 Family journey, we have always wanted to have the knowledge to speak. We have always wanted to have the courage to go and face a giant that we have created because of our inability to study and be prepared to read and defend God's word. So in essence it really has affected us in the point that we feel ashamed or down trodden because we were unable to give an answer when asked the question... we were unable to allow God the opportunity to speak through us and our courage as well as our assurance about the fullness of God in us is shaken. We think... if I cannot defend my faith, am I strong Christian in the first place. And of course the answer is YES... It is in the times when our faith is tested that we must stand firm and dig deep to find the assurance of God in our lives. This is another reason for this 40 Day Challenge.*

*So I hope that you are willing to take the challenge as well. I hope and pray that you will continue to take a daily bite out of God's word in hopes of training your heart, mind and soul to be ready to respond with the moment draws near. Courage is not easy... in fact there are many occasions in the New Testament where we see that the disciples failed because they did not have the courage to believe... even with JESUS standing right there in front of them... they still doubted in the storm, the still had problems with the crowds, they still tried to deny children, and they were arguing over who was to be God's right hand man. Instead of taking the courage to stand and be accounted before God, they just took the time to try and understand Jesus instead of accepting Him as the Son of God.*

*Courage means that we have to take the step to enCOURAGE others as well. Here is where our families come into the picture. I hope and pray you will continue to encourage your families in the reading and digesting of God's word. As we found out yesterday, it will not return empty, however it will not be given the opportunity to work in our lives unless we are willing to have the courage to stop, open it, and try to consume it one bite at a time... or in our case, one verse at a time. The goal has been set and the challenge is before us. For the last part of Phase 1 I am asking that you partake in this journey of self-discipline and courage to say no to the world and yes to God's word.*

*\*Today's goal is to try and make flash cards. Easiest way to do it is to take a 3x5 index card and write the memory verse of the day on one card for each family member. They can carry it around with them all day and in free moments, spend time in meditation over God's word. Today we hear about salvation. The people were still trying to understand everything that went on at Pentecost, and they continued to question whether or not Jesus was real. We see that the verse begins with the idea that the world rejected the most vital part of our foundations.. the cornerstone aka Jesus, which will now be the one who also is the final judge and end all on the building, our lives, that is in constant construction. We see that only through Jesus can we be saved. Seeing the example of Peter and John willing to stand firm after seeing the beating and destruction of Christ, the people finally realized the power and strength of God that must live in each of us.*

*The courageous act was to go back after everyone had turned their back and be willing to stand and speak the word of God to the world. So too is our step of courage today. I hope that you don't keep this 40 day challenge just to you and your family. After hearing all of the discord in our nation, I pray that you share an opportunity to begin rebuilding this amazing country that was established for the freedom to profess God with courage. It starts with taking the time to train our families in understanding ALL of the facets of our country, not just one election. If you truly want to take our country back for God... Take the time and the COURAGE to open God's word and consume it so that no matter the situation we will have the STRENGTH TO OVERCOME. Please listen to Jeremy Camp's song overcome.. listened especially to the lyrics of the bridge..*

*We will overcome, by the blood of the Lamb and the WORDS of our TESTIMONY Everyone, Overcome  
AMEN*

***Today's Memory Verse:***

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."Acts 4:12

***Today's Scripture:***

**11**Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.'**[a]** **12**Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."  
**13**When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. **14**But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. Acts 4:11-14