

# COURAGE

## LESSON 10 - "A COURAGEOUS CHURCH"

MARCH 8, 2026

### WORSHIP (15 MINS)

**Venue:** Home gatherings

*Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.*

**Venue:** Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or Via Online,

*Testimonies: "What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?"*

**Ask someone to do the opening prayer.**

### WELCOME (10 MINS)

**Welcome guests/first-time visitors.**

**Ice-breaker:** If you could travel back in time and spend one day with the early church in the book of Acts, what part of their life or experience would you most want to see or experience? Why?

### WORD(30-45 MINS)

**Main Text:**

**Intro:** In the first century, each city had one unified church in their location (Ex. Ephesus, Philippi, Corinth, etc.). Today cities have many different churches, making it easy to approach church like a consumer choice. However, instead of following modern trends, we are called to learn from the Early Church. Their unity, courage, and faith often seen today led to powerful spiritual growth and remains a model for building a healthy church culture for our lives today. Here are five qualities every church should seek to emulate from the Early Church.

**1. They were focused on God's mission and had a clear vision - Read Acts 1:6-8**

Jesus made the church's mission clear: to share the Good News and help people follow Him. The Bible shows that the early church stayed focused on spreading the message of Jesus to all people everywhere. Today, it's easy to get distracted by issues and debates instead of staying focused on that mission. The challenge for us is to keep our attention on what really matters, sharing Jesus with others and making disciples.

**Q:** *What examples of "distractions" or issues that can pull people away from focusing on Jesus' mission today? How can we stay focused instead?*

**Q:** *What does it practically look like for you to share the Good News and help others follow Jesus in your everyday life (school, work, friendships)?*

**2. They prayed bold and courageous prayers - Acts 4:23-30 NLT**

The early church did not pray small or fearful prayers. They asked God to move powerfully, even when they were facing threats and persecution.

**Q:** *What was the boldest and most courageous prayer you have ever prayed to God? Why did you pray that way?*

**3. They boldly shared the Good News - Acts 4:31 NLT**

They openly told others about Jesus His life, death, and resurrection. Even when authorities warned them to stop speaking or preaching about Him, they continued to preach and teach. Their goal was for more people to know Christ and become His followers.

**Q:** *Have you ever felt pressure from friends, school, work, or social media not to boldly share the good news of the gospel? How did you handle it?*

**4. They courageously stood for what is right- Acts 5:28-29 NLT**

They remained faithful to God's truth even when it brought opposition, suffering, or danger. They chose to obey God rather than people and were willing to endure persecution rather than compromise their faith. Their courage showed their deep commitment to Christ.

**Q:** *Have you ever been in a situation (at school, work, or with friends) where doing what's right meant you might be judged or left out? Can you share your experience?*

**Q:** *What are some ways you can build the courage to stand for your Christian faith and values when it's unpopular or uncomfortable to do so?*

**5. They bravely faced persecution and even death- Read John 15:18-20 NLT, Acts 5:40-42 NIV**

The early church consisted of true Christ followers. This was evident in how they dealt with persecution, they did not run away but rather ran towards it.

A Chinese pastor by the name of Brother Yun, author of The Heavenly Man, leader of the underground church in China, views suffering for Christ not as a tragedy, but as a privilege and a path to deeper intimacy with Jesus. He teaches that true faith is tested through persecution, which strengthens the church. He said, **"We should not pray for lighter loads, but for stronger backs to endure for the Gospel."** Brother Yun

**Q:** *Was there ever a time you were persecuted for being a follower of Jesus? Please share the situation.*

**Conclusion:**

We are all called to cooperate with God's Spirit so He can build us into the Church according to image of Christ, like the early Church. From the leaders to the youngest member, we need to do our part, follow the examples shown to us by the early Church. Are you all in?

**Q:** *What You Can Do to Help Make IWC a Courageous Church? Here are some things we can do:*

- 1. Pray for the leaders of IWC to lead well.**
- 2. Pray that many attendees will get involved in IWC's God-given mission: Follow Jesus, Make Disciples.**
- 3. Get involved in the mission of the church.**
- 4. Commit to being part of the church's mission to the very end.**

### WORK(15 MINS)

**Application**

- 1. Find a partner. Ask what you can pray for him/her then pray for each other.*
- 2. Pray and prepare a Hit List (max. of 5-10 names of family, relatives, friends, schoolmates, workmates, neighbors, etc.) of possible people you desire to invite in the next life group gathering.*

**What is your take-away from this lesson? Closing Prayer**