

# Brave

## Week 3 | The Cost of Not Moving

### BOTTOM LINE

We never know what is at stake every time God nudges us to move.

### GOAL OF THE GROUP

To discover what happens when the stakes get high and we allow fear to dictate our choices. Following Jesus on the adventure He has in store for us is a high-stake situation, but the longer we journey with God more we realize that no matter the cost, Jesus is worth the price.

### SCRIPTURE

Acts 6:8-15 and 7:1-53, Romans 10:9-15

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. "Brave" is having the courage to move out of your comfort zone. During week one we talked about "nudges" and how they are a part of God's plan for the world. Last week Kaleo showed us that "seeing color for the first time" happens when we step out of our comfort zones and into what God is doing in our lives. This week we're talking about what happens when the stakes are high.
  - a. What comes to mind when you hear "high-stake"? Share a situation in your life when the stakes were high.
  - b. People have always had a bias toward what is safe, what is certain, and what is secure. The truth is, when it comes to our relationship with God, we are the same way. Do you see this around you? Where?
2. We are often willing to jump in on the adventure with God as long as it's easy, and doesn't cost much time, resources, finances, or our reputation. When the stakes go up we have a choice to make about what price we are willing to pay to follow God's leading. How can fear impact the cost of following Jesus?
3. **Read Acts 6:8-15 and Discuss.** Jesus has risen and ascended. The early believers are getting organized and the movement of God is growing. To meet the needs of the people in the church, they elect men to help out and one of them was Stephen.
  - a. Stephen was brought before the Jewish court facing false accusations. If there was ever a time to reconsider your position or reevaluate your call to the mission, this was the time. At what point are the stakes too high for following Christ?
  - b. Most of us aren't falsely accused and brought before court. What things cause you to be uncomfortable or fearful? Perhaps it is praying in public or inviting your neighbor to church when you think they will say no. Share with the group.
4. Stephen responds in Acts 7:1-50. He explains his position on Moses because Moses was similarly accused in Old Testament times. Then Stephen connects the dots all the way to Jesus. **Read Acts 7:51-60 and Discuss** what Stephen specifically says to his false accusers and how they respond.
  - a. When the stakes were the highest, Stephen stood the tallest. Stephen's decision cost him his life, but his death led to a great dispersion of Christians to all parts of the known world, spreading the gospel further and faster than it would have gone otherwise. Do you feel the stakes should be high when we've been called to share the good news of the gospel? It IS a matter of life and death. Why or why not?
5. **Read Romans 10:9-15 and Discuss.** When people are sent by God, they tell others, and then those others hear and believe. But before people are sent they must be BRAVE enough to move out of their comfort zone, and before people move out of their comfort zone they must respond to God's "nudges". What might God be nudging you to do today?

"We were born to be brave."  
Bob Goff in  
"Everybody, Always"



## TRY THIS

*It's December and that means Christmas is coming! Consider who you might ask to attend Christmas Service with you. Pray and ask God if a face does not immediately come to mind. The stakes have never been higher and God is inviting us to stand together, join Him on this mission, and reach the world!*

# Brave

## Week 2 | The Red Scarf

### BOTTOM LINE

Trusting God's love and bravely stepping into the unknown leads to experiencing true joy.

### GOAL OF THE GROUP

To discover what happens when we accept the embrace of God's all-encompassing love, step out of our comfort zone to follow Him wherever he leads and experience the true JOY living in Him. The question is, are we brave enough to step out of the comfort?

### SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:11-19

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share:** What comes to mind when you hear the word "comfort"? Share a personal story of a comfort zone in your life.
2. Experiencing all God has for our lives and staying in our comfort zones do not go together. As a result, God often nudges us to move. Often fear prevents us from saying "yes" to God. What types of fear paralyze us?
3. **Read Acts 9:11-19 and Discuss:** In this story Ananias is asked by God to step out of his comfort zone. His story involves a man named Saul whose name was later changed to Paul. Paul was a Jew who for many years viewed the Jesus movement as being a cancer to the Jewish faith, so he made it his life mission to wipe it out.
  - a. If you were Ananias, what would you have thought about God's request?
  - b. Ananias had the courage to move and as a result, history changed, and lives saved. How can we find the courage to take hold of what God has for us?
4. It's important to understand that fear is a normal emotion. When discomfort increases, so does fear. Some people view fear as a terrible emotion and aim to get rid of it. Others think that if they have enough faith, they won't experience fear. It would be abnormal if we did not experience fear when asked to move out of a comfortable place. The problem comes when we allow fear to control our lives.
  - a. Notice Jesus' response to Ananias in verses 15-16. Jesus reminded Ananias of His incredible power and that He is in control. He has the power to soften the hardest of hearts. What does this assurance mean to you?
  - b. In saying this to Ananias, perhaps Jesus was trying to redirect his focus. When we remove our eyes from what causes fear (circumstance) and place our eyes on the one who is able to do the impossible (Jesus), we can overcome the control fear has in our life. What would you gain if you focused on Jesus in these moments?
5. This weekend, in the Kaleo Kids production of "The Red Scarf", the students us color to tell us a story about trusting God's love and bravely stepping into the unknown. Thy show us the true joy that can be experienced as a result. Think of a time in your life when God desired you to experience something in color and not black and white. What did you do? In the future will you look at black and white moments differently? Why or why not?

Fear loses its grip when our faith  
in **SOMEONE** exceeds our fear in  
**SOMETHING.**

**K**

## TRY THIS

*Discomfort grows faith. When Ananias said "yes" he had the privilege to be a part of an incredible transformation. His faith grew. The next time God gave him a little nudge, there was a little less fear and a lot more faith. When we step out of our comfort zone our faith grows. Sometimes our comfort zones are the walls that block us from God's best for our lives. When we dare to step beyond the walls, we open the doors to things we never thought possible. What step is God calling you to take today?*

# Brave

## Week 1 | Nudges

### BOTTOM LINE

"Nudges" are a big part of God's plan for the world. If you receive a nudge from God, great things are to follow.

### GOAL OF THE GROUP

To help us each discover what God is calling us to do to share His love with everyone around us. God uses these moments to advance His mission and purpose in the world. The question is, are we brave enough to respond when God gives us a nudge?

### SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:10 and Acts 8:26-40

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share:** Have you ever just gotten a strong feeling, a nudge, or an impression that you should do something? Perhaps it was to be generous to someone in need or speak a kind word to a stranger. Share what comes to mind.
2. It's one thing to get "a nudge" born out of kindness and good will because it makes perfect sense. But it's another thing to get a nudge that doesn't make any sense at all. For example, "I don't know why but I felt like God wanted me to start up a conversation with this person and then I found out why later." Sometimes people find out right away, sometimes it's down the road, or they may never find out.
  - a. **Read Ephesians 2:10.** If a nudge comes from God, can we be confident that great things are to follow? Why or why not?
  - b. When God gives us nudges, they sometimes require us to step out of our comfort zone. How does the temptation to live in the familiar impact this?
  - c. Besides courage what is required to be brave and step into a nudge with an unknown conclusion?
3. **Read Acts 8:26-40 and Discuss.**
  - a. The nudge Philip received in this scripture was a big one. What could have happened if he didn't go?
  - b. The Ethiopian eunuch in the chariot was a man of incredible power to the queen. What do you think Philip must have thought about what God was asking him to do?
  - c. Can you think of a time when God nudged you to do something that felt intimidating? What did you do?
  - d. Do you find it difficult to act on something when you cannot see the big picture? Why?
  - e. "Please tell me" in verse 34 means God was working in the heart of this Ethiopian man long before Phillip came on the scene. God had a prepared work and He knew it long before Phillip did. If we say no to a nudge, do you think we could pass by things God prepared for us in advance?
4. When we are connected and pursuing God (we should not always be ones that have to be pursued BY God), we won't miss the Holy Spirit leading in our lives. How can we be close enough in our walk with Christ to hear Him clearly and know what He wants us to do?

It's always for God's GLORY, and  
it's always for our BENEFIT!

K

## TRY THIS

*EVERY time a nudge comes from God – GREAT THINGS are in store.*

*We will NEVER know – until we GO.*

*What is God asking you to do? How is he asking you to be BRAVE and step out of your comfort zone?*