



MON 7-11

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Acts 4:31
- ✓ THOUGHT "While they were praying, the place where they were meeting trembled and shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak God's Word with fearless confidence." [MSG] The early church began with a boldness that changed the world. Is there a specific fear you can identify that keeps you from confidently sharing your hope with others?
- ✓ PRAYER Loving God, give me courage to share the hope I have because of my faith in Christ. Help me do that out of love and care for the people around me, so they too can experience hope in their lives. Amen.

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TUES 7-12

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Psalm 118:6
- ✓ THOUGHT "The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?" [NLT] Sometimes when we know we should say or do something, but there is a risk of confrontation, we can be tempted to let fear take over. God reminds us that we have the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us, empowering us to do the right thing. God never leaves us alone!
- ✓ PRAYER Almighty God, thank you for the comforting reminder that you are Lord of heaven and earth. Thank you for your strength and power and for being by my side through all things. Amen.

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WED 7-13

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Proverbs 31:8-9
- ✓ THOUGHT "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice." [NLT] What struggles of others spark a passion in you? Consider one step you could take this week to become involved in working toward a solution to a problem in your community. Ask God for inspiration.
- ✓ PRAYER God of compassion, I know how much you care about the oppressed. Reignite a desire in me to help people around me who are struggling. Open my eyes to see and increase my awareness of the needs that you intend for me to meet. Amen.

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THURS 7-14

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 2 Chronicles 15:7
- ✓ THOUGHT "But as for you, be brave and don't lose heart, because your work will be rewarded!" [CEB] Doing difficult things takes perseverance. It is natural for our resolve to weaken over time, but we can work against that by allowing God to be our source of strength. Staying connected in prayer helps keep a good perspective!
- ✓ PRAYER Loving God, thank you for another day. Let all my days be committed to your work. Forgive me when I get tired and forget to allow your Spirit to rejuvenate me. Remind me daily that you are always ready to help me out. Amen.

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FRI 7-15

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 John 3:7
- ✓ THOUGHT "Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous." [NIV] It is sometimes difficult to go against the status quo, but that is the example of Christ. He spoke out for what was right in the face of great danger. Despite the risk, Jesus acted with boldness for the sake of others.
- ✓ PRAYER Precious Jesus, you are the light in my life. Thank you for revealing the love of God to me by your example. Show me each day ways that I can follow you and help me remember the courage you displayed. Amen.

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SAT 7-16

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Luke 8:16
- ✓ THOUGHT "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light." [NIV] When you receive a wonderful gift, you show others out of sheer excitement! What better gift than a Savior? With so much pain and difficulty in the world, our compassion for others compels us to uncover the light of Christ!
- ✓ PRAYER Amazing God, I want my life to count. Stir up a passion in me to see to it that the people in my life see you in the things I say and do. Increase my empathy for those who are hurting. Amen.

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DIGGING DEEPER

- ✓ **Intro** Revelation is a challenging portion of the Bible to understand. There are many ways to interpret the text but what truth can we take away that is practical for us today? John's advice to the church begs the question for us--*how are we different because we choose to follow Christ? How are we a light, changing the world for the better rather than just fitting in?*
- ✓ **Reflect**
- When you think of the book of Revelation what comes to mind? After hearing this week's message, what new ideas have surfaced?
 - It is a delicate balance to stand out in our culture in a positive way. We want to be relevant and connected but also remain a light in the darkness. How have you navigated this in your life of faith? What are good examples of this that you have seen in others? Have you seen damaging examples of Christians "standing out"?
 - In John's revelation, Jesus was speaking to the church of Laodicea. They had become complacent. Revelation 3:15-16 says, "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!" [NLT] Reflect on your faith journey. Would you say that presently your spiritual life feels hot, cold, or lukewarm? Can you identify a reason?
 - In Revelation 3:19-20 we see Jesus encourage them saying, "I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends." [NLT] When we lose our way and fail to follow Christ, Jesus is always there knocking, calling us out of our indifference. What changes do you think Jesus might be nudging you toward? What steps can you take this week to keep from being indifferent to what God wants?
 - We are called to be difference-makers. What passions for your community need to be reignited? What issues break your heart? Pray that God would show you a place to serve!
- ✓ **Pray** **Holy Spirit, help me begin each day with a prayer of surrender. I want to listen to your Holy Spirit nudging me, so give me the courage it takes to step out and make a difference. Open my mind to new ways I can serve and be a light to others. Amen.**



DIGGING DEEPER

✓ What did I learn? _____

✓ How might it apply in my life? _____

✓ What is a next step I can take? _____

