



# The Road Ahead

Week of March 6, 2016

## Share Your Experience This Week #SevernRun

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

### Series Recap:

The start of a new step in our journey as a church, as God's church, has just begun. We've been on a path over the past few weeks looking ahead to where we feel that God is telling us to go. Before us is a twist in the road. We may not know exactly what's in store for us as we press onward, but we do know that God will guide us if only we allow him to lead.

## Message

### Read Acts 4:24-30

You might look at the disciples who walked with Jesus and feel like they had something special that we could never have. But the truth is they were ordinary people just like us. The disciples were simple men; most were fishermen. They had no special skills that "qualified" them for service to Jesus. But what they did have was a willingness to follow and the courage to stand defiant in the face of a world that wanted them to stay quiet. But it took Jesus' death and resurrection for them to "get it". They felt all the same feelings that we felt: fear, rejection, doubt, grief, and more. But these ordinary men performed great wonders on behalf of Jesus after they overcame those emotional obstacles. And the truth of the matter is, we can be just as influential as them. We just have to believe big and have the courage to act.

## Pray

Jesus, give us the faith to carry us forward on this road. Give us faith like the disciples so we can go out and reach a world that's still in need of your grace. Give us the courage to go boldly into our communities sharing a love that has carried on through the ages and changed billions of lives.

## Getting Started

- What is your biggest fear when it comes to venturing into something unfamiliar?
- What do you most look forward to as the church shifts into this new era?

## Listening Deeply

1. Why do you think Jesus chose such ordinary people as his disciples?
2. Why do you think that, despite witnessing Jesus first-hand, it took so long for the disciples to see the big picture?
3. What finally caused the disciples to see things differently? Up until Jesus' death and resurrection he had performed some pretty miraculous things. Why was that not enough?
4. Most of us have the same beliefs that the people at Jesus' time had, so why might it feel different for us? What is holding you back from sharing about Jesus?
5. How can we deepen our faith and expand our courage to match what the disciples found after Jesus ascended to Heaven?
6. What commitments are you willing to make to ensure that the Church is successful in its goals of reaching as many people as possible for Christ?

## Living Wide in Jesus

Jesus has big plans for us. He has called us to accomplish great works and to be the ones to fulfill his plans here. Are you willing? He has given us everything we need, and he will accomplish everything that we cannot. All he asks is that we get up and follow him wherever he leads us. And if we do, then we, like the disciples, can accomplish great things beyond anything we could ever imagine for ourselves. Are you ready? The time for action has come...**Make a game plan.** How can you and the group prepare for the days ahead? We won't be able to do things like we always have. Be ready to do more, to learn, and to grow. Think of new ways that the group can grow that perhaps you haven't done before. **Pray!** One of the most critical actions that we can do to prepare is to pray. Pray for each other; for courage, for boldness, and for strength. Make a daily note to pray for the church and all the things that we are trying to accomplish together. **Be open.** God speaks to us in mysterious ways, and you never know when he will call on you. Don't look back in regret on missed opportunities. Listen for what he has to say and act!