



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 5: Emboldened
Suggested Week of Use: June 30, 2024
Core Passage: Acts 4:8-21

News Story Summary

In spring months, the weather can take center stage. Such was the case recently when a series of powerful tornados ripped through Oklahoma. Wayne and Lindy Baker, along with their son, Branson, were driving to a friend's house to take refuge in a storm shelter when an uprooted tree slammed into their truck, trapping the parents inside. Nine-year-old Branson ran for more than a mile in the middle of the storm to get help. In an interview afterward, Branson admitted to being “really, really scared,” but he also was determined to help his parents. While Wayne and Lindy were injured, they said that they could not have been prouder of Branson for his heroic actions.

For more about this story, search “Boy saves parents from Oklahoma tornados”

Engage

To supplement Engage, post a “1” and a “10” on opposite walls. After most adults have arrived, instruct them to gather in the middle of the room. As you read a series of situations, direct adults to go to one side of the room or the other (or somewhere in the middle) indicating the level of fear they would experience for that particular activity. Share that 1 would be “least amount of fear” and 10 would represent “greatest amount of fear.” Read the following scenarios:

- Scuba diving in Hawaii
- Chasing storms
- Riding a roller coaster
- Skydiving
- Giving a presentation at work
- Trying a new style of food
- Flying in an airplane
- Sharing my faith journey with someone

For each scenario, let volunteers explain their responses. After the last statement, share the story of Branson Baker, the nine-year-old boy who saved his parents during a storm in Oklahoma. Direct the group to name some character traits that Branson demonstrated in helping his parents. Point out that today's lesson will focus on two men who acted boldly in faith.

Challenge

To supplement Challenge, recall the story of Branson Baker and his parents. Review the character traits listed earlier. Ask: *How were the actions of Peter and John similar to and/or different than Branson's actions? What were the risks and rewards of each situation?* Point out the role of the Holy Spirit to empower and embolden the apostles. Say: *The same Holy Spirit that lived in Peter and John resides in us and enables us to share the gospel with others.* Close in prayer, asking God to give adults the boldness to share their faith.