

Character Trait for January 14-18 is Boldness (courage)

Ephesians 5:1, "Therefore, be imitators of God"

CHARACTER: qualities built into our lives that determine our responses, regardless of circumstances.

Boldness: The confidence to do or say what is true, right and just.

Weekly Verse: Acts 4:13, "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."

Bible Story: In Mark 11:15-18, Jesus drives the money changers from the temple.

Quote: Having courage does not mean that we are unafraid. Showing courage means that we face our fears. We are able to say, "I have fallen but I will get up".

Leadership: In leadership, it sometimes takes courage to say what needs to be said. I am reminded of the following saying. In an effort to be kind, I have been unclear. By being unclear, I have been unkind. Having the courage to say difficult (but true) things may ultimately be kinder than not.

Application:

1. Earn a Hearing

Credibility takes time to establish. Hold yourself to the same standards you expect from others.

2. Stand for What Is Right

Boldness confronts wrong, even when it is not a popular thing to do. If you do not take action, it does not matter how much you know about something. Confront wrong attitudes, actions, and ideas in your life, and call others to integrity and excellence.

3. Support Others

Speak up for the vulnerable and for those you know are right. Do not look for anything in return. Do not automatically dismiss an issue as "someone else's problem." Identify what responsibility you can take in each situation, and support those who stand for justice.

4. Speak With Humility

Bold individuals speak with humility because they realize the truth matters, not their opinions or agendas. Communicate the facts, stand for justice, do what is right, and give others time to come around. Prepare the message, and let it speak for itself.

Discussion Questions:

Give an example of someone you know who has shown boldness.

How can you support someone else who shows boldness?

Why is it hard to be bold sometimes?