
“The Audacious Tenacious”

Key Takeaways:

- 1. Paul's willingness to face hardship and danger for the sake of the gospel opened doors to share with influential people.*
- 2. Avoiding difficult situations can lead to a boring faith and missed opportunities for God's kingdom.*
- 3. God may call us to do hard things that require sacrifice, discomfort, or risk.*
- 4. Where nothing is ventured, nothing is gained in our spiritual lives.*

Discussion Questions:

- 1. The pastor shared his personal story of training for a race. Have you ever pushed yourself physically or mentally for a goal? How did it feel, and what did you learn from the experience?*
- 2. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How does Paul's analogy of an athlete in training apply to our spiritual lives?*
- 3. In the sermon, we heard about Paul's willingness to face danger in Jerusalem. What are some "Jerusalems" in your life – places or situations where God might be calling you, despite potential difficulties?*
- 4. The pastor mentioned that many Christians live out a "boring faith." Do you agree or disagree? Why?*
- 5. What are some ways we tend to prioritize safety and comfort in our lives? How might this impact our spiritual growth?*
- 6. The sermon highlighted how Paul's obedience led to opportunities to share the gospel with rulers and kings. Can you think of a time when stepping out in faith opened unexpected doors for you?*

7. *What's one area in your life where you feel God might be calling you to "take the training wheels off" and step out in faith?*

Practical Applications:

1. *This week, identify one "comfort zone" in your spiritual life that you need to push past. Make a plan to take a small step outside of it.*
2. *Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal any areas where He's calling you to something deeper or more challenging in your faith.*
3. *Reach out to someone you've been avoiding or with whom you need to reconcile. Take the first step towards healing that relationship.*
4. *If you've felt a call to ministry or a specific area of service, talk to a church leader or trusted spiritual mentor about it this week.*
5. *Choose one spiritual discipline (prayer, fasting, Bible study, etc.) and commit to practicing it more intensely for the next month, even when it's difficult.*

Closing Prayer: *Close by praying for courage and strength for each group member to run their race of faith with perseverance, embracing the challenges that lead to spiritual growth and kingdom impact.*

QUICK-HIT Questions (for less formal discussion)

Pick and Choose from any questions that might fit your discussion

1. How does Paul's willingness to face danger and hardship for the sake of spreading the Gospel challenge our own approach to faith and evangelism?
2. In what ways might we be prioritizing personal safety and comfort over obedience to God's calling in our lives?
3. How can we cultivate the kind of spiritual endurance Paul demonstrates, as described in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27?
4. What 'hard things' might God be calling you to do in your life right now, and what's holding you back from pursuing them?
5. How does Paul's strategy of using his trials as opportunities to share the Gospel with influential people inform our approach to difficulties?
6. In what ways might our faith become 'boring,' and how can we reignite the passion to 'conquer the world for Jesus' that we may have had when first coming to faith?
7. How can we discern between unnecessary risks and God-ordained challenges in our spiritual lives?
8. What insights can we gain from Paul's persistence in sharing the Gospel, even when facing opposition and imprisonment?
9. How might stepping out of our comfort zones and embracing difficult tasks lead to unexpected opportunities for kingdom impact?
10. In what ways can we support and encourage one another in pursuing God's calling, even when it involves personal cost or risk?