

# SHAKEN

GUIDE





# ACTS 4:31

AND WHEN THEY HAD PRAYED,  
THE PLACE IN WHICH THEY WERE GATHERED  
TOGETHER WAS  
SHAKEN,  
AND THEY  
WERE ALL FILLED  
WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT  
AND CONTINUED TO SPEAK  
THE WORD OF GOD WITH BOLDNESS.

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THIS GUIDE BELONGS TO

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Name

Email or Phone Number

Please return to  
White Oak Christian Church  
Central Offices  
3675 Blue Rock Rd  
Cincinnati, OH 45247



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**SHAKENCHURCH.COM**

## MESSAGE FROM OUR LEAD PASTOR



From the frontier beginnings in 1830 to the churches planted in India, from the hundreds of children who have encountered Jesus to our neighbors who have found new hope in Jesus through our multi-site strategy, God has been moving boldly in and through White Oak for nearly two centuries!

Though my wife, Denise, and I have only had the privilege to serve at White Oak for the past twenty years, I marvel at how God has been consistently moving through White Oak by the power of his Holy Spirit to transform Cincinnati and make impact around the world.

### I BELIEVE OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PREPARING US TO BE SHAKEN FOR ANOTHER BOLD MOVE.

The word *shaken* is interesting. Often, it's used to describe a negative reaction to something that leaves us in a place of discomfort or fear. In God's Word, *shaken* has another meaning, as well. In Acts 4 the believers pray acknowledging God's sovereign power. They ask him to do such powerful works in their city. They ask God to move in and through them so that they will proclaim the name of Jesus boldly. As they pray the place where they were meeting was SHAKEN! Not by fear, but by the power of the Holy Spirit!

Because of those steps of trust, the believers were given boldness to impact others in the name of Jesus and to give freely of themselves to the mission.

When we ask God to move powerfully in and through us, we want him to have us SHAKEN. We want to anticipate such a movement of God that our families, neighbors, and those on the other side of the globe are moved by his love and power.

The kind of trust and power that leaves us shaken to do big things for God is in White Oak's DNA. I'm confident that God gives us points along the path to look back upon and acknowledge his faithfulness so that we will be SHAKEN by his power to boldly move forward into our future.

Anticipating bold moves,

Nathan Hinkle

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Hinkle". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the printed name.



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# VISION SUMMARY

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White Oak exists  
to connect people to full life in Jesus.

We cannot just say that's our mission.  
We have to do it!  
We're going to show it!

The most important thing about our mission  
is that you can do it.

You can connect people to full life in Jesus!

We want to trust forward, asking and anticipating  
God to shake up our lives and move boldly through  
us. We want the people and places around us to  
not only be moved but also shaken by the power  
of God in their lives.

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THE  
**PRIMARY**  
GOAL  
**100%  
ENGAGEMENT**

We want every single person to take their next step in following Jesus and growing in generosity. If every person at White Oak takes their next step toward Jesus, then our primary goal is accomplished.

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THE  
**SECONDARY**  
GOAL  
**\$6.2  
MILLION**

This is a one fund initiative that simply means we are trusting God for this amount to cover all our expenses for the next two years. This includes funding both our ongoing general budget and continuing ministry impact.





# BOLD IMPACT

## \$3.95M

WE WANT TO FUND WHITE OAK'S LOCAL AND GLOBAL MINISTRY THROUGH OUR GENERAL BUDGET FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

HOWEVER, THIS BUDGET IS ANYTHING BUT GENERAL.

WHITE OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH EXISTS IN THE WORLD TO BOLDLY SHOW JESUS TO THE WORLD. WE NEED TO EXPAND, STRENGTHEN, AND RESOURCE WHAT WE ALREADY DO, DAY IN AND DAY OUT, AT WHITE OAK.

WE SEEK TO CONTINUE TO INVEST IN AND DEVELOP OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, STUDENT'S MINISTRY, ADULT DISCIPLESHIP, WORSHIP, LOCAL OUTREACH, AND GLOBAL MISSIONS.

WE WILL BE LASER FOCUSED ON CONNECTING OUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILIES TO THEIR IDENTITY IN JESUS, EQUIPPING THEM TO LOVE, AND DEPLOYING THEM ON MISSION. THESE MINISTRIES ARE THE BACKBONE OF WHO WE ARE AS A CHURCH, AND WE WILL SEEK TO BE SHAKEN MORE THAN EVER BEFORE.





# BOLD HOPE

## \$250,000

WE WILL REIMAGINE HOW WE TAKE JESUS TO OTHERS BY USING OUR PROPERTIES TO SERVE COMMUNITY NEEDS AND CONNECT PEOPLE TO JESUS.

GOD HAS GIVEN US A LOT OF MINISTRY SPACE AT OUR COLERAIN TWP. LOCATION. WE WILL CREATE NEW STRATEGIES TO SERVE OUR CITY INCLUDING HOW OUR FACILITIES CAN BE UTILIZED BY OUR COMMUNITY AND FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

WE WANT TO REFURBISH OUR SPACES TO BETTER SERVE AREA MINISTRY PARTNERS.  
WE WANT FRESH, UPDATED, AND ACCESSIBLE SPACES WHERE LIKE-MINDED ORGANIZATIONS CAN CALL WHITE OAK HOMEBASE FROM WHICH TO SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED.

WE WANT TO ANSWER THE QUESTION:  
HOW CAN OUR FACILITIES BRING HOPE TO OUR COMMUNITY SEVEN DAYS A WEEK?

WE WILL USE EVERY RESOURCE GOD HAS GIVEN US TO SHAKE UP THE LIVES OF OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS WITH HIS LOVE AND POWER.





# BOLD STEWARDSHIP \$2.0M

WE WILL MOVE BOLDLY INTO THE LIVES OF PEOPLE BY REDUCING DEBT TO POSITION OURSELVES FOR FUTURE MINISTRY IMPACT IN EVERY SPACE WHERE WHITE OAK HAS INFLUENCE!

WE LEVERAGED DEBT FOR GROWTH IN ROSS TWP. WHICH ENABLED US TO BUILD THE FACILITY WHERE THAT CAMPUS NOW MEETS. WITH MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE IN THAT BUILDING EACH WEEKEND, 135 KIDS EACH WEEK, AND MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE THE DECISION TO SUBMIT THEIR LIVES TO JESUS AND BE BAPTIZED. WE CELEBRATE WHAT GOD IS DOING AND WE WANT TO BE READY FOR THE NEXT THING!

WE HAVE INTENTIONS IN THE FUTURE OF USING THE ROSS BUILDING AND THE FIELD SPACE; WE WANT EVERY SQUARE INCH OF THE PLACE TO BE STEWARDED FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND TO POINT OTHERS TO JESUS!

WE WILL BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE RESOURCES WE HAVE TO PAY DOWN THE DEBT OF THE ROSS FACILITY SO THAT WE CAN USE WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US TO GET TO WHERE HE WANTS US TO GO NEXT!

THE DEBT REDUCTION ISN'T ABOUT BUILDINGS.  
IT'S ABOUT OUR MISSION.  
THE BUILDING IS A TOOL. THE MISSION IS  
CONNECTING DISCONNECTED PEOPLE  
TO FULL LIFE IN JESUS!





# NEXT STEPS

## PRAY INTENTIONALLY



Pray that God would prepare people to hear from Him and that our community would take deeper steps of trust. Ask God in prayer, "How are you inviting me to be a part of SHAKEN?" Pray that YOUR life is transformed through engaging in this initiative.

## COMMIT FULLY



We reach our goal of 100% engagement when everyone does their part. Be an ambassador for SHAKEN and God's plan to transform our people, our community and our world through it. Be engaged in the SHAKEN series and in Life Group discussions about SHAKEN. Invite others to be involved.

## CELEBRATE LOUDLY



God is going to do amazing things in your life during this season. Share your story with other people, in person and online. We would love to hear your stories as well; send them to us at [stories@thewocc.com](mailto:stories@thewocc.com).

## GIVE GENEROUSLY



Live and give in a way that stretches you. Watch how God will grow your faith through relying on Him. What resources has God entrusted to you? What would it look like to give in a way that changes you, that transforms you? Prayerfully consider what God is calling you to invest financially over the next two years.







# Journey of a Giver

This tool is designed to help a person move from money being their “god” to money being a tool for God’s kingdom. The Journey of a Giver focuses on behaviors and attitudes of our hearts rather than on amounts or percentages that we give. Each step of the journey represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice, further transforming us into the likeness of Jesus. These are not steps you ascend to get to God but simply a way to evaluate your growth in generosity. Scripture encourages us to grow in every facet of our walk with Christ, including the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

## AN INITIAL GIVER

An Initial Giver is someone who decides to give for the first time out of a response to God’s Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift. They experience the initial joy of putting Jesus’ words into action (Matthew 7:24).

## A CONSISTENT GIVER

A Consistent Giver is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving as a disciple of Jesus. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the joy of consistency. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well of course; it just requires more discipline. They experience the joy of excelling in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

## A PRIORITY GIVER

A Priority Giver is someone who understands the pre-eminence of Christ and that He is before all things - that all things were created by Him, for Him, through Him, and to Him. This giver places such a significant priority on their giving that it drives their spending and their saving, as opposed to their spending and saving driving their giving. They experience the freedom of serving “one master” and declaring Jesus is first (Matthew 6:19-24 and Colossians 1:15-20).

## A SURRENDERED GIVER

A Surrendered Giver is someone who recognizes that Christ surrendered His whole self for us, and therefore, we desire to surrender our whole selves to Him in love (Ephesians 5:1-2). This giver would say, “My giving is not just changing my spending and saving. It’s also changing me!” They also look at what they’re not giving away and ask, “Is it surrendered too?” This informs how they use everything they’ve been blessed and entrusted with - whether that be through direct monetary giving or through a God-honoring use of an existing resource (e.g. honoring God with the use of your home).

## AN ETERNAL GIVER

An Eternal Giver is someone who sees the eternal impact of their giving - on them and on others - not just the immediate programs and ministries it helps accomplish. This giver has been captivated by the knowledge that the more they are led to “do good, to be generous and ready to share,” the more they “take hold of that which is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:19). This encourages them to keep growing! They make all decisions (big purchases, savings, giving, relationships, areas of service) in light of how it will affect their eternal impact.



# ONE FUND EXPLANATION

One fund is exciting because everyone is engaged and a part of what God is doing. We are one church with one Heavenly Father who is leading and transforming us. Through a one fund initiative we will invite everyone to make BOLD MOVES with their generosity, regardless if you currently give or what you currently give.

A traditional initiative focuses mostly on people who are already giving. These people are asked to continue giving what they currently are, as well as to start giving toward something else, like a building or special project. We are not doing that with SHAKEN. Instead, SHAKEN will be a one fund initiative, meaning ALL of our giving goes toward our initiatives over the next two years.

## IT'S ALL ONE MISSION, SO IT'S ALL ONE BUDGET.

The SHAKEN initiative will last for two years. 100% that is given to White Oak Christian Church will go to SHAKEN to help us further accomplish our mission.

What I/we would normally give in a year (regular giving, special projects, etc.) \$ <input type="text"/>		Name _____ Phone _____			
		Email _____			
My/Our expanded annual generosity as part of the Shaken initiative. + \$ <input type="text"/>		Address _____			
= \$ <input type="text"/>	X2 years ↓				
		\$ <input type="text"/>			
Gifts from my/our stored resources (savings, stocks, property, etc.) + \$ <input type="text"/>					
<b>MY/OUR TOTAL 2-YEAR SHAKEN COMMITMENT</b> \$ <input type="text"/>					
DECEMBER 2022 - DECEMBER 2024					



# TWO YEAR GENEROSITY CHART

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, use this generosity chart as a discipleship tool. Let it inspire and challenge you towards a next step in greater generosity for Jesus' Kingdom.

Gifts Needed	Two-Year Gift Level	Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Gift Level Total
1	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$500,000
3	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$750,000
3	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$450,000
4	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$400,000
5	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$375,000
8	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$520,000
10	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$500,000
12	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$420,000
18	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$450,000
25	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$375,000
40	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$400,000
55	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$412,500
75	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$375,500
Many	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$272,000
<b>Total Generosity Goal:</b>				<b>\$6,200,000</b>





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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Additional questions and answers can be found by visiting [SHAKENCHURCH.COM](http://SHAKENCHURCH.COM), or you can email Erin at [efeiser@thewocc.com](mailto:efeiser@thewocc.com)

## HOW LONG IS MY COMMITMENT?



We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment to SHAKEN. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin in December 2022 and will culminate in December 2024.

## I AM COMMITTING TO SHAKEN. HOW DOES THIS CHANGE MY GIVING TO MISSIONS, THE GENERAL FUND, AND OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS?

During this two-year period, every contribution to God through White Oak is a contribution to our SHAKEN initiative. Every aspect of the ministry vision God is calling us towards for the next two years will be funded through SHAKEN. There will not be separate funds. Every gift made will go into the same fund and will be our SHAKEN giving. Therefore, every weekend becomes a day to celebrate and contribute towards what God is doing in us and through us to make bold moves.

## ARE THERE ADDITIONAL WAYS BESIDES FINANCES THAT I CAN GIVE MORE TOWARD SHAKEN?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give toward SHAKEN. You might have some stock, property, or other items of that nature. Or you may have some stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He might be calling you to give during this time. Please let us know if you need assistance with facilitating gifts of property or stock, and we would be happy to help you with that process.





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# MESSAGES & LIFE GROUP GUIDE

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(If you have to miss a Sunday service or a Life Group meeting, you can listen to the messages and find the SHAKEN Videos online at [SHAKENCHURCH.COM](http://SHAKENCHURCH.COM).)



## WHAT TYPE OF SHAKEN EXPERIENCE WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

### GOOD

Commit to being a part of the weekend service for the next five weeks.

### BETTER

Commit to the above and to working through this guide on your own.

### BEST

Commit to the above and to a Life Group for the next 4 weeks.





# LIFE GROUP INSTRUCTIONS

Whether you are going through this study in a group or on your own, these tips will help you get the most out of this study.

## **LIFE GROUP VIDEO:**

Each week you will have a brief video from Nathan that launches into our group discussion. At the beginning of group each week play the appropriate week's video to begin. Life Group videos can be found at [WWW.SHAKENCHURCH.COM/RESOURCES](http://WWW.SHAKENCHURCH.COM/RESOURCES)

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Please allow time for contemplation during discussion questions. Allow for a variety of responses.

## **SCRIPTURE STUDY:**

We will be using the NIV translation throughout this series and study. Each week allow someone to read aloud the scriptures being discussed for the group.

## **ACTION STEPS:**

Take time to offer a clear action step for your group to consider each week. The stated action step from the guide is an important challenge for each of us to consider.



# WEEK 1

# MESSAGE NOTES

MESSAGE

## SHAKEN TO TRUST



**BIG IDEA** \_\_\_\_\_



**KEY VERSES** \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT DO I WANT TO REMEMBER?** \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT QUESTIONS DO I HAVE?** \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT NEXT STEP WILL I TAKE IN RESPONSE TO THIS MESSAGE?** \_\_\_\_\_

# WEEK 1

# LIFE GROUP GUIDE

MESSAGE

## SHAKEN TO TRUST

1. Remember a time when you were sick or hurt. Did you let someone help you? Why?

From the message Sunday, how do you think the lame man in front of the temple felt as Peter and John acknowledged him and responded to his appeal? Why?

Someone who can, retell the story of the lame man at the Temple gate.  
Then read Acts 3:1-10 note verses 9-10

### Acts 3:9-10

*9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and **they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.***

2. How do you think this man demonstrated a trust in the power of God that inspired others to trust also?



3. Someone read another story of trust.  
1 Kings 19:19-21

**The Call of Elisha**

1 Kings 19:19-21

19 So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him.

20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you."

"Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?"

21 So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

4. It seems that Elisha was rather wealthy. He owned the equivalent in his day of twelve \$100,000 John Deere tractors. When he slaughtered the oxen and burned the yoke, he was making a statement about his willingness to leave his fortune behind and follow Elijah. In what ways would that kind of statement impact him personally and his family and friends?

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5. What would be an example in our culture in 2022 of a significant sacrifice that would make that kind of statement of commitment for family and friends?

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6. Elisha knew that Elijah was the preeminent spiritual prophet in Israel. Was Elisha's "commitment" to Elijah, or was it to God? Why or why not?

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7. What could it look like if you were to make a visible statement to others of your all-out trust in God?

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8. What are the barriers preventing you from living in full trust that God will provide everything you need?

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BIG IDEA

\_\_\_\_\_



KEY VERSES

\_\_\_\_\_



WHAT DO I WANT TO REMEMBER?

\_\_\_\_\_



WHAT QUESTIONS DO I HAVE?

\_\_\_\_\_



WHAT NEXT STEP WILL I TAKE IN RESPONSE TO THIS MESSAGE?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. Who is someone you admire for standing up for what they believe?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. From the message Sunday, how do you think Peter and John felt as they were put in jail, questioned and chastised by the most important spiritual leaders in Israel? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Someone who can, retell the story of Peter and John after they healed the lame man at the Temple gate. Then read Acts 4:13-20.

*Acts 4:13-20*

*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. 14 But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. 15 So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. 16 "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. (cont'd)*



17 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.” 18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19 But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! 20 As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”**

3. What was the inner motivation that enabled Peter and John to demonstrate such a calm and clear presentation of the work of Jesus?

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Someone read another story of surrender.  
Daniel 3:1-30  
Note verse 16

*Daniel 3:16-18*  
16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. **17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”**

4. What is to be admired about the three men in this story? Circle your selection(s)

- Their courage to defy authority.
- Their witness for the Lord.
- Their faith in God for protection and a miracle.

Their trust in God no matter what happened.

Their surrender to God and to the situation without any obvious fear.

5. What did Nebuchadnezzar’s response to this miracle indicate? Circle your selection(s)

- He believed their God was all powerful.
- He believed their God was the only true God.
- He wanted to serve their God.
- He wanted their God on his side.

6. In what area of your life do you feel the greatest opportunity to show the freedom of your surrender to God? Circle your selection(s)

- At work
- At home
- With finances
- With friends
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

7. How can we cultivate in our lives and our family the freedom of all-out surrender to God?

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# WEEK 3 MESSAGE NOTES

## MESSAGE SHAKEN TO STEWARDSHIP



**BIG IDEA** \_\_\_\_\_



**KEY VERSES** \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT DO I WANT TO REMEMBER?** \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT QUESTIONS DO I HAVE?** \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT NEXT STEP WILL I TAKE IN RESPONSE TO THIS MESSAGE?**

# WEEK 3 LIFE GROUP GUIDE

## MESSAGE SHAKEN TO STEWARDSHIP

1. What contest or competition have you ever won? How did you prepare?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. From the message Sunday, what was the biggest takeaway about managing the "stuff" God has put in our hands?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. The believers' prayer after Peter and John's release was remarkable (Acts 4:24-26). What historical fact that they recalled and prayed do you think was the most strengthening to their faith and mission next steps? Circle your selection(s)

- God's creation of the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them
- The prophetic word spoken by David about the kings of the earth taking a stand against the Lord and his anointed one and seeing that fulfilled
- The prophetic promise accomplished in the conspiracy of Herod and Pontius Pilate against Jesus



4. Why do you think that remembering what God has already done has a big role in helping people live responsibly with the things that they have and do?

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Someone read another story of courageous and shrewd management.  
Esther 4:6-17 & 7:1-10

NOTE: Esther had been chosen as the new queen. Haman, an official who despised Jews in general, and Mordecai, Esther's cousin and adopted father, in particular, had just persuaded King Xerxes to order the annihilation of all the Jews in the empire. Though Mordecai earlier instructed Esther not to reveal she was a Jew, when he learns of Haman's plot, he sent a message challenging her to act on behalf of their people.

**Esther 4:12-16**

*12 When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"*

*15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."*

5. What was Mordecai really saying in his message to Esther? Circle your selection(s)

You are in danger as well.

For your sake don't pass up this opportunity.

This is why the Lord has allowed you to be queen.

God will be with you.

God will use you.

6. Esther did as Mordecai asked and went to the king. The king received her and granted her request. What impresses you most about Esther as she stewarded her role and responsibility. Circle your selection(s)

her courage

her obedience

her strategy/wisdom

her spiritual preparation

7. Often the impact of our decisions are not immediately clear. Esther found herself in a unique position with access to the king and she was faced with a decision. How did she steward what God had placed in her control? What has God placed in your control and how might the Spirit be leading you to respond?



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8. If you faced a crisis that required you to step out in faith as Esther did, would you need:

- more wisdom?
- more courage?
- or something else?

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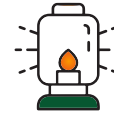


# WEEK 4

# MESSAGE NOTES

MESSAGE

## SHAKEN TO BOLDNESS



**BIG IDEA** \_\_\_\_\_



**KEY VERSES** \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT DO I WANT TO REMEMBER?** \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT QUESTIONS DO I HAVE?** \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT NEXT STEP WILL I TAKE IN RESPONSE TO THIS MESSAGE?**

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# WEEK 4 LIFE GROUP GUIDE

MESSAGE

## SHAKEN TO BOLDNESS

1. What bold move are you contemplating right now?

a “new something” (e.g. house, job, relationship, commitment or...)?

changing an “old something” (e.g. appearance, remodel, vacation location or...)?

“adding something” (e.g. a child, degree, a vehicle)?

Read Acts 4:29-31.

### Acts 4:29-31

*29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

2. From this passage and the message Sunday, how do you think the believers felt after hearing the story of the release of Peter and John, then praying, and then experiencing the shaking of the place where they were staying? If you had been there, how would you have felt?

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Retell the whole story of Peter and John one more time and all the details you can remember.

Read Acts 4:23.

### Acts 4:23

*23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.*

3. The believers’ prayer seemed to assume that their faith would be tested in the future and so they said, “29 Now, Lord, consider their threats, and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”

How could a prayer for boldness empower the believers for the unknown situations that would lie ahead of them?

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Read another story of a great test and a bold faith decision to trust God.

Genesis 22:1-18

READ:

After years of waiting, Abraham (Age 100) and Sarah (Age 90) finally had the son God had promised. In this story God gives Abraham an amazing and extremely difficult assignment: God asked Abraham to “kill his son and sacrifice him as an offering.”

On the long walk to the alter, Abraham said,



**Genesis 22:8**

*“8... “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.’*

4. Abraham believed that God would provide a solution for him as soon as God told him what he was to do. He demonstrated his faith by going immediately to the mountain as he was told. Then, when he saw the place of the sacrifice, he told his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

How could it be that Abraham had so much faith that he could go forward without hesitation to fulfill his assignment?

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5. What was it that God desired from Abraham in this test?

- Sacrifice
- Faithfulness
- Unquestioning obedience
- To be loved by Abraham above all others
- To love God more than the good gifts God gives
- Bold trust

6. What do you do when you are facing a major “test” in your life?

- A time of prayer
- Strict obedience to God
- Fasting
- Seeking counsel from others
- Studying God’s Word

7. How is your Christian life characterized by boldness?

When? Where? How? How Much?

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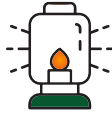
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# WEEK 5 MESSAGE NOTES

## MESSAGE SHAKEN TO GENEROSITY

# KID AND STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES



**BIG IDEA** \_\_\_\_\_



**KEY VERSES** \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT DO I WANT TO REMEMBER?** \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT QUESTIONS DO I HAVE?** \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT NEXT STEP WILL I TAKE IN RESPONSE TO THIS MESSAGE?** \_\_\_\_\_

## KID'S MINISTRY

## STUDENT MINISTRY

### WEEK 1 SHAKEN TO TRUST

Acts 3:1-10

### WEEK 1 SHAKEN TO TRUST

When God says move, we move!

### WEEK 2 SHAKEN TO FREEDOM

Acts 4:23

### WEEK 2 SHAKEN TO FREEDOM

Freedom is only found in surrender.

### WEEK 3 SHAKEN TO STEWARD

Matthew 25:14-30

### WEEK 3 SHAKEN TO BOLDNESS

We are given boldness so we can move boldly!

### WEEK 4 SHAKEN TO BOLDNESS

Acts 4:31-37

### WEEK 4 SHAKEN TO GENEROSITY

Receiving grace empowers giving generously.

### WEEK 5 SHAKEN TO GENEROSITY

John 6



# REFLECTION FOR COMMITMENT SUNDAY

## NOVEMBER 20, 2022

To be completed prior to Commitment Sunday.  
If you're married please do this together.

List out the financial commitments that you currently have—those that go beyond a one-time payment but that have a time duration to them. Examples would be a home mortgage, a lease agreement, a car loan, a cell phone contract, your child's tuition for school, your own tuition for school, etc.

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Now write out the commitment you are planning to make for the SHAKEN initiative. Where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments? Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments in order to be able to fulfill your SHAKEN commitment? What if you wanted to raise your SHAKEN commitment to make a bold move with us? What would that require? Is there a financial commitment you currently have that appears to be prioritized above your ability to make a truly surrendered giving commitment to help move God's mission forward?

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If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say that you value?

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Would that statement be true about you? Or is there something that needs to be explained or modified?

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If you keep this commitment over the next two years, what type of spiritual transformation will this cause in you?

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How will you leverage this change to influence others such as your children, your co-workers, your friends, your family, and others in your circles of influence?

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Pray over your commitment as you prepare to lay your card at the "altar" on Commitment Sunday. Prayer is the most important thing in this whole process. Now let's do this, Church! Let's allow God to take us on a new adventure as we are moved to be bold.



**WHITE OAK**  
**CHRISTIAN CHURCH**