

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

A Bold Witness

Acts 5:29–32

But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things.'

This is the same Peter who, just weeks earlier, had denied even knowing Jesus — not once, but three times. A servant girl's question was enough to make him crumble. But now? Now Peter stands before the Sanhedrin, the very council that had sent Jesus to the cross, and he does not flinch.

What changed? Easter changed everything. Peter had seen the risen Lord. He had been forgiven, restored, and filled with the Holy Spirit. The man who once cowered in fear now stands tall and speaks with breathtaking boldness: "The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree."

Peter's boldness did not come from his own courage. It never does. It came from the reality of the resurrection. When you know that your Lord has conquered death itself, what can any earthly power do to you? The worst they can do is kill your body — and even that has been defeated.

You may never stand before a hostile council. But you face your own moments of pressure — times when confessing Christ is uncomfortable, unpopular, or costly. In those moments, remember: the same risen Lord who transformed a cowardly fisherman into a fearless preacher stands with you too. His resurrection is your courage.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think gave Peter the courage to speak so boldly after having denied Jesus just weeks before?
2. When have you found it difficult to speak about your faith? What held you back?
3. How does the resurrection of Jesus give you confidence to live and speak as a Christian?

Prayer

Holy Spirit, You transformed fearful disciples into bold witnesses. Work that same transformation in us. When we are tempted to stay silent about our faith, remind us that our risen Lord stands with us. Give us words to speak and courage to speak them, not in our own strength, but in the power of the resurrection. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Family Action Item

Practice being a witness this week. As a family, each person can share in one or two sentences what Easter means to them — as if they were telling a friend who doesn't know. Pray for one another to have opportunities and courage to share the hope of the resurrection.

