



Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

Discipleship Series Interactive Worship - Speaking Up (Testifying)

Preparation

You will need:

- A blindfold.
- Images of William Wilberforce, Catherine Booth, Thomas Barnardo, Martin Luther King.

Bible Passage

Matthew 21:12-17

Introduction

Ask someone to come to the front who is willing to be blindfolded. Say that you are going to give them directions as to how to reach the other side of the hall. However, while you are doing so the rest of the congregation will have to make a lot of noise so as to try and drown out your instructions. This will mean you will have to speak out, despite the noise.

Thought

Jesus never entered the Temple in Jerusalem. He wouldn't have been allowed. Only selected priests went into the Temple sanctuary and that was only at certain times each year. Jesus would have been restricted to the outer courts. Children and women were allowed in here too, whereas they were not allowed with the men in the inner courts of the Temple. That's why, to the people in authority (Matthew 21:12-17), it was fine to sell the sacrificial animals and birds in the outer court. It wasn't considered to be holy, or where God dwelt.

The injustice and naivety of this thinking was why Jesus reacted so strongly. He couldn't remain silent when he saw what was happening. He had to speak up – even though this was probably the tipping point that led to his crucifixion.

Throughout the centuries there have been times when people felt compelled to speak up. (Project the photos of these people on the screen.)

- In 1787 William Wilberforce spoke up about slavery.
- In the mid-1800s Catherine Booth spoke up for women's rights to preach.
- In 1879 Thomas Barnardo spoke up for orphaned children to be educated.
- In the 1950s and 1960s Martin Luther King spoke up for the civil rights movement in America.

All these people found a voice, motivated by the spirit of God, and spoke up to change the world.





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We may not all have the same impact but we are all called to speak up and out. As disciples, we are called to declare our belief and faith, even if it may cause ridicule and even persecution.

Remember the apostles, alone and scared in the upper room? When the Holy Spirit came they couldn't help but speak out and continued to do so. In Acts 5:29 (NIV) Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than human beings!'

In Galatians 1:10 (NIV) Paul said 'If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.' Sometimes we are called to sacrifice reputation and popularity for the sake of speaking out what we know to be true.

Participation

- Use *Open Doors* material to remember persecuted Christians across the world who speak out for Jesus even though they are persecuted for doing so – <http://www.opendoorsuk.org/>.
- Interview a couple of corps members of different ages. Ask them how they 'speak up' for Jesus and about their faith in their daily situations (you may want to ask them beforehand).

Worship

- SB 393 Tell out my soul
- SB 960 I'll stand for Christ
- SB 819 O Church arise
- SOF 2231 Song Ten thousand reasons
- Video *Unspoken Plea* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-itUUXtg7Ls>

Response

Ask people to speak out the promises and characteristics of God that they know to be true for them as their prayer.

