

# CALLED TO COURAGE

Joshua 1:1-9



## SYNOPSIS

When we look throughout scripture, we see that two ingredients for life with God is faith and courage. Courage is the ability to make a deliberate choice towards a worthy goal (even despite the pain, fear or uncertainty of the process) because it is worthwhile.

As Joshua was getting ready to lead Israel into the promised land, God commanded them to take courage. And they definitely needed it. In Canaan there were huge fortified cities and the Israelites were a nomadic group who were wandering through deserts. The Canaanites have been training for war their entire life. On the other hand, the Israelites were sons of slaves. The Israelites were one of the smallest and insignificant tribes in the area. The Canaanites were like giants compared to them. There was a great need for courage.

And God reminds them to take courage by reaching into Israel's memory banks to remind them of His faithfulness. Similarly, for us, we need to remember the faithfulness of God in order to live courageously, and God appeals to His faithfulness to remind us to be courageous.

Second, courage must be activated in our lives, because courage is the doorway to the blessing of God. God is not always calling us to big earth shattering things to be courages, but in the mundane everyday things as well. God calls us to obedience because courage is tied up with God's commandments. But when we take courage and obey, we further experience the faithfulness of God - and ultimately that is the abundant life that we come to experience (a cycle of courage and experience of the faithfulness of God).



## 2 IMPORTANT POINTS

1

### COURAGE STARTS IN OUR HISTORY WITH GOD

When Israel is about to enter into the promised land, God does some of the same miracles that were performed with Moses - as He appeals to Israel to remember God's faithfulness. Similarly, we need to remember God's faithfulness. As God has been writing our story, one of the ways courage can take root inside of us is when we remember His faithfulness, because courage starts with our history with God. When we face adversity, we must remember the faithfulness of God so that we can take courage.

2

### COURAGE MUST BE ACTIVATED IN OUR LIVES

Courage does not come naturally, it must be activated. Courage is the doorway into God's blessing. God loves to involve His children in His work, and there is no greater blessing than to take part in what He is doing. He's not always calling us to the 'big things', but to be faithful in the small things as well. As we learn how to be obedient, we begin to take courage in what God calls us to walk into. And when we obey in those things, we further experience God's faithfulness.



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Icebreaker: What would you say is the most courageous thing you've ever done in your life?

2

What keeps you from living a life of faith and courage?

3

What moments of God's faithfulness can you remember to bring you courage in times of adversity?

4

Do you see a relationship between courage and obedience to God's commands?

5

How is God calling you to be courageous right now? What do you face currently that you need to give into God's hands?



## BIG IDEA

One of the most common commands God gives His people in scripture is: Take Courage. Do Not Be Afraid. Don't Fear. We can easily slip into lives full of fear, worry, and anxiety. But God has called us to a courageous life. That starts with a history with God - remembering the faithfulness of God in the stories that He is weaving together in our lives. From that place of remembering His faithfulness, we take courage so that we can walk into God's blessing as we join in what He is doing. God calls us to be obedient and faithful where we are, and when we take courage in obedience, we further experience the faithfulness of God - and that drives us to live more courageously, ultimately culminating in the abundant life that God has promised His people. May we take courage in Him, being obedient and leaving the results to Him.