

Sermon Discussion Questions
Courageous Love — A Christmas Story
December 24, 2017

1. Agree or disagree with this statement: **“Courage is the supreme requirement of God’s people.”** Explain.
 - Who would be an example to you of someone you know who displays (or has displayed) courage? What attributes do/did you see in them that makes you see them that way?
 - Would you consider yourself a person of courage? Would others? Why or why not?

2. Jeremy said that when something doesn’t feel right in our relationships with each other—when we feel like someone has been unfaithful to us in some way—we must lean toward the fear, not away from it. Read Matthew 5:23-24. What are Jesus’ instructions? Do you have any relationships that you feel someone may have something against you that you can share? How might you lean toward that instead of away? Do we always have to? Or, when might we lean away instead of leaning toward when someone has been unfaithful to us?

3. Do you recall the forces beyond Joseph’s control that could have caused fear (Luke 2:1-7)? What are some things or hardships that happen beyond our control that can cause us to fear?
 - What ingredients are necessary to be courageous so that fear does not overtake us?

4. It was God’s will to send Joseph and Mary (and Jesus) to Bethlehem, then to Egypt, then back to the land of Israel, then back to Nazareth. No doubt all that travel was exhausting and stress inducing, but it was God’s will for them. How might God’s will for us cause stress for us today? Here is a quote for you, “God’s way is the right way even when it doesn’t seem right to us.” How might God’s way not seem right to us?

5. “Faith is the remedy for fear.” Would you say you are more governed by fear or by faith? Explain. In the HDG push each other to see where fear might have a foothold on each of you, and talk about how to have faith instead.

6. At the end of the service we all lit candles to symbolize passing on courageous love to each other. Who do you have to express courageous love to this week and how might you go about doing that?