

Bible Discussion 16 Strength and Courage

Text: Joshua 1:1-18

Purpose: To be people who live strong and courageous lives because our God is always with us.

Opening Question: *What is the most courageous thing you have ever done in your life?*

Read and Discuss: Vs. 1-2

Moses has just died and now God turns to his successor Joshua. The big moment that everyone has been working towards is entering the Promised Land. Joshua, who has been Moses' mentor is now the one that is called to step up and take the responsibility of leading God's people. Joshua was able to hide behind the scenes, but now millions of people are looking to him to lead. God often leads us to places that are out of our comfort zone and require us to trust Him with everything.

1. *What are some of the past experiences you have gone through that required you to fully trust and depend on God and not yourself? Describe what you felt and thought? (trust God during a difficult financial season, a new leadership role at church or work, trusting God with the death of a friend, etc)*
2. *As you think about who God is, what are some of the characteristics that help you to trust Him in moments of uncertainty? (He is all powerful, He is all loving, He never changes, etc)*

Read and Discuss: Vs. 3-6

God's instruction to Joshua is that he is to be a strong and courageous person despite the overwhelming task of leading God's people to conquer the Promised Land. He reminds Joshua that He will be with Him.

3. *God's called us to be strong and courageous people. What are some fearful or uncertain circumstances currently in your life that you could go through with strength and courage? What does that look like? (illness, life disappointment, etc.)*
4. *We are strong and courageous only because God is with us. How do you live in a way where you constantly are aware of God's presence with you? What are distractions for you that cause you to forget or not believe God is with you?*

Read and Discuss: vs. 7-9

After giving Joshua instructions on what his purpose is, He then reminds Joshua about the law. This is the law that Moses reminded everyone about before he died. The law was so important because it guided people to become fully strong and courageous people. Going outside of it they would reproduce weak and unfaithful people.

5. *Obeying the law was so important to God, it lead people to become courageous. How do you see obeying the bible important to the kind of person you want to become?*
6. *What are some of the things that get in the way of you fully living by the law? (pride, individualism, lack of skill, etc)*