



The Courage to Obey like Abraham

Adapted from "Courage" series by Dennis Marquardt

What have you set your heart and sights on for your life? The direction you are looking in is where you are heading; and wherever your heart is set there you will find your commitments of time and resources.

While God's call is different for each one of us, the courage to obey is equally important to us all. God calls every one of us to do something for His kingdom's sake. What we need is the courage to obey that call no matter what it is, no matter where it takes us, and no matter what demand it makes on our life.

The Bible teaches that everyone has a call of God on their life and that we each need to courageously follow that call whether it is a call to be a godly parent or a call to be a world-wide evangelist like Billy Graham. It takes great courage to obey God's call no matter what it is.

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COURAGE

C1: Describe what you believe God is calling you to do. Make sure you include the courage that is needed to live out what God has called you to do.

C2: Read and answer the following.

Genesis 12:1–9 (ESV) Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

- Abraham left his country, family, and his father’s house to go to a land that God would show him. Describe how difficult it would be if God called you to leave those things behind and follow where He leads you.
- Abraham had to have courage to obey the call of God. In the next thirty days, find three men to discuss the type of courage Abraham had to have had. What did you learn from these conversations?

C3: Spend thirty days asking God to reveal the next step in your life. What do you sense is the next step for you in your life? How much courage will you need to take the next step? What is keeping you from taking this next step?

STRENGTH

S1: Describe a time in your life when God asked you to do something, but you found it difficult to leave the comfortable place you were. What promises has God given that you can hold onto in your life to find the strength to go where He leads?

S2: Read and answer the following.

Genesis 12:1-9 (ESV)

- What do you learn from these verses about your walk with God?
- Write out the seven promises God gave Abraham.
- Describe the strength you think it took Abraham to leave his country, family and father's house to follow where God was leading without knowing exactly where he was headed?

S3: When you have courage to step out into what God has promised, it does not mean you will be failure-proof. It does mean that you have to continue to fight and get back on the path God has directed you. What do you need to do to get back on the path God has called you to walk?

ENDURANCE

E1: Wherever you set your heart, you will give your time and resources follow. What have you set your heart and sights on in your life?

E2: Obedience is not any easy thing. Read and answer the following.

Genesis 22:1-19 (ESV)

- Put yourself in this story. You are the dad and God has asked of you a difficult thing. Describe the courage you would need to follow through with this.
- How do you find the strength and courage to obey what God has asked like Abraham?
- God's plans are never without God's promises. You may not see all of God's promises accomplished. How can you have the courage to obey like Abraham, despite not seeing the promises of God accomplished in your lifetime?

E3: Read and answer the following.

Hebrews 11:8-19 (ESV)

- What do you learn from these verses?

E4: In the next thirty days, discuss this lesson with three men. What did you gather from these conversations?