



COURAGE: OVERCOMING FEAR AND PLACING OUR TRUST IN GOD

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 1 & 2

OVERVIEW

Fear is a significant threat to Resilient Faith. Fear makes us retreat, hide and doubt especially when we face the 'storms of life'. It distracts us from the Lord's call over our lives to stand firm and steadfast in the hope that is found in Christ. The book of Joshua begins (chapters 1 -2) with a compelling narrative of Joshua's commissioning as leader following the death of Moses; facing the daunting task of finally ushering the Israelites into the promised land, after 40 years of wandering, disobedience, battles and difficulties, and the realities of opposition from people living in Canaan. With this new season and responsibility, Joshua is called "to be strong

and courageous" - This bold courage would not be in himself but in God's faithfulness and power! God assured him "I will never leave you nor forsake you".

The response of the Israelites to their new leader (Ch1:10-18), also demonstrated their courage to follow God in a season that was not just new, but also 'unsettling', especially for the three tribes that had already 'found rest, and settled east of the Jordan with Moses' permission.

Joshua's first tactical move as leader (Chapter 2), was to send two spies on a covert surveillance mission to the Promised Land which almost turned sour when they were found out, and needed the assistance and rescue effort of a local prostitute called Rehab. The unusual and unexpected twist in events, and the demonstration of courage by both Rehab and the spies in the face of grave danger and threat to life, teach us many lessons. Including how God inspires faith, and allows us to see his presence, protection and provision through the most unusual means, and in the most unexpected of circumstances – in summary, God is still at work even when things don't seem to go according to plan. Like the spies, through faith and courage, we are able to overcome the 'fear and drama' of unusual seasons and focus on God's call over our lives (Ch 2:22-24).

DISCUSSION

Please spend time to reflect and share with the group how God is inspiring courage and enabling you to overcome fear and build

resilience in your faith.

Please use the following prompts/reflection guides below.

Courage for new, unsettling and unusual seasons

- What new season/things is God calling you into? In what areas do you feel unprepared or inadequate?
- What represents an unsettled season in your life? What confronts your season and place of rest?
- What fears are you confronted by? What seems most difficult or significant challenge?
- What is your response when God leads you down unfamiliar/ unusual paths?
- How can you trust God's presence, protection and provision through difficult seasons and when things don't go according to plan? – Read Joshua 1:5-9 again.

Prayer:

Spend some time to pray over each other, and speak into each other's lives. Prophecy "strength and courage" for the year 2024 and the seasons ahead!

God says **"Be strong and courageous!; I am with you! I will never leave you nor forsake you!"**

Amen!