

FEAR NOT

Courage vs. Fear

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

- ▶ *Courage is the resistance to fear, and the mastery of fear- but not the absence of fear. Mark Twain*

JOSHUA 1:19–HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ The Hebrews had been wandering for 40 years
- ▶ Everyone except Joshua and Caleb had fallen dead in the wilderness due to disobedience
- ▶ Joshua likely felt weak and afraid

The words God repeated to Joshua three times:

Be strong and courageous

Joshua 1:6,7 and 9

TWO TRUTHS ABOUT COURAGE

The Foundations of Courage are:

1. His Promises and
2. His Presence

THE RESULTS OF COURAGE

1. Obedience
2. Perseverance

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENDURANCE

- ▶ *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9*
- ▶ *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-3*
- ▶ *Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5*
- ▶ *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18*



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LifeGroup Discussion Questions

Prayer

Take a few moments to check in with your group. Share what kind of ministries everyone is involved with and how best to pray for them.

My Story

Have you ever had a mentor or role model that you aspired to become more like? How did their influence impact you the most? Were you successful in following their lead and becoming more like them?

Digging Deep

- 1) **Read Joshua 1:1-5.** How do you think Joseph felt following the footsteps of Moses? What fears may have come up?

- 2) What fears do you have about being involved in ministry both inside and outside the church? What potentially holds you back?

- 3) **Read Joshua 1:6-9.** Why do you think the command, "Be strong and courageous" is repeated so many times? How should this impact our confidence to obey God's commands?

- 4) What promises are given to Joshua? Which ones ask Joshua to look back and remember what God has done in the past? Which ones ask him to look ahead and believe God for future blessing?

Digging Even Deeper

- 5) In what ways do you meditate on the Book of the Law day and night? Discuss ways the study of Scripture empowers us to be strong and courageous for the Lord.

- 6) **Read Matthew 14:22-33.** After reading this story, what fear obstacles are in your own way that keep you from being obedient? How can those be overcome?

- 7) Peter faced a real, practical fear of drowning when Jesus told him to take courage and have faith. How can we live with bold faith in the midst of the day to day fears we face?

- 8) **Read Hebrews 12:1-3.** The result of living courageously for the gospel is a life filled abundantly in Christ by a lifestyle of obedience and perseverance. What hope does Scripture give us as a reward of being obedient to God?

Taking it Home

- 9) **Read Ephesians 4:11-16.** Why is being actively involved in the body of Christ so important to the life of a believer? Are you currently living up to the gifting you have received? *(If you are not aware of your gifting, please take Creekside's free online Spiritual Gifts Survey or attend Pastor Maxon's May 21st Spiritual Giftedness workshop. Visit creeksideeg.com/next-steps/ for both of these.)*

- 10) What does bravery for the sake of the gospel look like in your personal life? How can you bring that bravery to your family, school, or workplace?

Praying Together

Pray with your group that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to face our fears and overcome them with the help of God who has promised He will always be with us.