

COURAGE

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

BOLDNESS IS NEEDED TO POSSESS ALL GOD IS WILLING TO GIVE. THIS STUDY OF JOSHUA WILL CALL INDIVIDUALS AND CHURCHES TO THE KIND OF COURAGE THAT CROSSES RIVERS, FACES GIANTS, AND CLAIMS THEIR FULL INHERITANCE.

1 Our biggest regrets are typically our “inaction regrets”. Have you found that to be true in your life? If so, share an example of how fear has kept you from going where you really wanted to go.

2 On a similar note, many churches allow fear to keep them where they are instead of where they ought to be. Why is that often the case? Follow up: Thankfully, The Hills does not have a track record of staying on the safe side of the river. How have you seen this to be true in the history of our church?

3 “BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS” Read Joshua 1:1-5. This was a pivotal moment for Joshua and the people of Israel (they needed to find the courage to take what God had already promised to give them). What were some of the obstacles that could have stopped their forward progress? How did God seek to strengthen Joshua and give him confident hope to press forward?

4 COURAGE IS...formed by vision and faith. Read Joshua 1:6. Joshua never lost the vision from years earlier of what life could be like on the other side of the river even though ten of the spies saw the same thing but returned scared (Numbers 13-14). The difference is that Joshua and Caleb allowed what they saw to be shaped by what God said. Are you more prone to be swayed by “good reasons” not to do something or by “God’s promises”? How has what God says shaped the way you’ve lived most of your life?

5 COURAGE IS...fueled by the Word of God. Read Joshua 1:7-9. Nowhere in His instructions does God give Joshua any military advice. Instead, God’s word to Joshua was to get into God’s Word. Why was it so important for Joshua to “*meditate on it day and night*” and how is that still relevant to us today? Share some ways you practice this discipline on a regular basis. **Note for leaders:** after this discussion reference the Prayer Guide and encourage everyone to go through it together.

6 COURAGE IS...fanned by demonstrated unity. Reading the same Word help’s God’s people to get on the same page. The greatest threat to Israelite victory would be Israelite disunity. **Read Joshua 1:12-18.** Why were the instructions to the two and half tribes so significant then and how are they relevant to our situation today?

7 We must possess courage to possess all God wants us to have. God didn’t bring us out of “Egypt” just so we could wander in the “wilderness”. Yet we often settle for life on the wrong side of the river. The Courage Campaign is about our desire to possess all God wants our church to have. What is one thing that really excites you about this campaign?

Prayer exercise: Palms Down, Palms Up. Have everyone hold their hands out with their palms down (pray sentence prayers *releasing* any fears you have). Then turn your palms up (pray sentence prayers *receiving* the courage God has for you).

