

## **Be Courageous Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part altogether, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Were you a risk-taker as a child? Explain.
2. What is something you have learned about yourself over the past few years?

**Read the following passage:** Joshua 1:1-9.

God called Joshua to be strong and courageous. Why was that God's message for Joshua? For starters, Moses had just died. How could Joshua possibly fill Moses' shoes? In addition, even under Moses' leadership, the people often complained and rebelled. In fact, one of the worst offenses was connected with the exact task that was now being assigned to Joshua: possessing the promised land. The previous generation was so intimidated by the powerful peoples in the land that they refused to go in. And now Joshua was supposed to lead their children into an intense military conflict so they could possess the promised land? That had to feel overwhelming.

Although our cultural context is worlds away from Joshua's, the challenges that Joshua faced are not so different from the ones we face. We're prone to feel overwhelmed when we compare ourselves to the best people in our fields. Sometimes we feel like the people around us are not very reliable. And we all have to navigate past failures and disappointments. Like Joshua, God is urging us to be strong and courageous.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What is one way you would like to be more courageous?
2. To what extent are you "living in reality" in the following areas of your life? Which of the following areas needs the most attention right now?
  - Assessment of your personal strengths and weaknesses
  - Depth of your relationship with God
  - Physical health and well-being
  - Health of your relationships
  - Financial state
  - Processing of pains, disappointments, or traumas
  - Character development
3. Read Romans 1:1-7 and 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Where do the words "called," "call," "chose," and "chosen" appear in these passages? What is the significance of these terms in connection to living courageously? Do you think of yourself as called and chosen by God? Explain.

4. Read Joshua 1:7-8. How do the Scriptures help us to be strong and courageous? Does your life feel aligned with God's purpose? Explain.
5. One of the ways we can participate in our own transformation is by being more deliberate about our thoughts, our words, and our actions. In each of these categories, what is one way you can be more intentional so that you can grow in your relationship with God and more effectively fulfill the purpose he has for you?
6. Do you take time throughout the day to recognize that God is with you? Explain.

**Pray**