

Bravery 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. What is one of your proudest accomplishments?
2. Do you experience any common phobias? (Snakes, bugs, the dark, flying, confined spaces, heights, etc.)

Read the following passage: 1 Samuel 17:1-11.

Saul and all the Israelites were terrified when they saw the Philistine champion, Goliath, and heard his threats. But delivering the Israelites from the hand of the Philistines was the specific mission God had given to Saul (see 1 Samuel 9:15-16). Because he was afraid, Saul avoided doing what God had called him to do. Although fear is a completely natural emotion that can protect us from real dangers, fear can also keep us from fulfilling the purpose God has for us.

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

1. Why is courage necessary for good leadership?
2. Is fear impacting your behavior in any of the following areas? Explain.
 - Starting spiritual conversations with people who are not followers of Jesus
 - Inviting someone to church
 - Attempting to reconcile a relationship
 - Beginning a new relationship
 - Having a difficult conversation with a friend, family member, or person at work
 - Giving generously to the church, a non-profit, or someone in need
 - Saying “no” to someone who is taking advantage of you in some way
 - Making a significant career move
 - Pursuing a leadership role in the church or somewhere else
 - Trying something new
3. Read 1 Samuel 17:26. How did David’s perspective differ from that of his fellow Israelites? Although we are in very different circumstances, what might it look like for us to have a similar perspective in our lives?
4. Read Proverbs 28:1. What is the connection between righteousness and boldness?
5. Read 1 Samuel 17:34-37. David fought the lion and the bear before he faced Goliath. What are some small steps of courage you can take over the next few days or weeks?

6. Many people in the Bible experienced significant seasons in the wilderness (Moses, the Israelites, David, Jesus). How can our own wilderness experiences help us grow? What should we do to aid our own growth if we are in a wilderness season?
7. Read 1 Samuel 17:38-39. It was natural for Saul to think that David should dress for battle how Saul would dress for battle. But if David had tried to fight Goliath in Saul's armor, the results would probably have been very different. David was a shepherd, and he had no experience fighting in armor. Are you comfortable with the person you are? Explain. What are some ways you can leverage your strengths for the good of God's kingdom?
8. David's shocking victory catalyzed the entire Israelite army. What are some practical ways you can motivate the people around you to pursue God and be part of the mission?

Pray