

# Taking Courage

## Participant Handout



The purpose of this module is:

To take courage in order to witness effectively.

The objectives for this module are:

- Discern sources of courage;
- Learn to rely on God's Spirit for strength;
- Share the Gospel consistently.

### Assuring Words

The Lord is with you  
Mighty Warrior  
Go in the strength you have  
I am sending you  
I will be with you  
You will strike down the enemy  
Fire flowed from a rock  
Peace. You will not die  
God answers Gideon's request

### Lack of Confidence

Why is this happening?  
The Lord abandoned us  
I cannot accept the mission  
My clan is weak; I am the least  
Give me a sign  
I saw the angel of the Lord, I am going to die  
If you will save Israel, the fleece will be wet/dry

- I. Taking courage is more than \_\_\_\_\_ fear.
- Courage does not \_\_\_\_\_ fear, but faces danger or uncertainties with confidence, resolve and bravery.
  - Courage willingly \_\_\_\_\_ adverse consequences.
  - Emotional courage \_\_\_\_\_ a person to persevere in face of difficulties.
  - Taking courage \_\_\_\_\_ in ways faithful to God's character and consistent with caring for people.
- II. What are some demonstrations of courage? Here are some examples:
- \_\_\_\_\_;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ in peace/unity;
  - \_\_\_\_\_;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ for healing;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts of the Spirit;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the fruit of the Spirit;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ for principle.

III. Scriptures that encourage courage:

**Deut. 31:6-8** *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."* This same message is then passed onto Joshua and Israel.

**Ps. 31:24** *“Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.”*

**II Tim. 1:7** *“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”*

**Josh. 1:9** *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

**I Cor. 16:13-14** *“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.”*

**Ps. 27:14** *“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”*

**Eph. 6:19-20** *“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”*

IV. Take courage \_\_\_\_\_ with fear: we do not take hold of fear, fear takes hold of us.

A. So how do we \_\_\_\_\_ courage?

1. We look to sources of courage:

- A. Self-assurance;
- B. Bravery;
- C. Self-assertive (ego-driven);
- D. Models of faithfulness;
- E. Authorization (Matt. 28:19-20).

2. The outcome of courage is not \_\_\_\_\_ or necessarily positive.

# Stephen in the New Testament Church courageously confronted sin, but died a martyr's death.

# Paul pitted the Sadducees against the Pharisees. He bought some time, but also forced Rome's rule to protract the litigation rather than dismissing the unfounded charges. Irritating the religious leaders: was it an inevitable outcome?; was it inspired by the Spirit?; or a humanly and well-intentioned strategy that backfired? (Acts 2:30-23:11)

B. How do we take courage?

- 1. By being \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit (absorbing His power) (Acts 1:8);
- 2. By \_\_\_\_\_ among believers who search the scriptures and pray for each other (Acts 2:42, 46);
- 3. By worshiping God who \_\_\_\_\_ and sends ambassadors on His mission (Acts 13:1-3);
- 4. By \_\_\_\_\_ God (Acts 2:1-13);
- 5. By \_\_\_\_\_ the truth of the Gospel (Acts 4:12);
- 6. By \_\_\_\_\_ time with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

## Small Group Exercise

Discuss the following questions in your small group.

1. When is risking fool hardy?
2. What methods of courage-building would most help you?
3. Why do you suppose Paul asked for prayer to preach the Gospel fearlessly?
4. How would you like Christians to pray for you to share your faith?

## Action Planning/Reporting

Form a courage-building group of four or more. Discuss the how, who, when and expected results for such a group. Plan to meet for three to four months, a minimum of twice each month. Here is a proposed agenda for these meetings:

- a. Pray for unsaved people;
- b. Build relationships with non-believers outside the group;
- c. Find ways to express your love for the unchurched;
- d. Report your attempts to speak Good News into their lives;
- e. Serve as encouragement to each other.