



Course Name: Leadership Principles: Courage Part 3

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Course description:

This course deals with the leadership principle of courage. The lesson today is the final lesson on the principle of courage. Leaders must be courageous. Courage is not only a biblical principle, but one that we see on every leadership front. Bill Hybels' book *Courageous Leadership* addresses areas related to the principle of courage.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Reviewed the definition of courage and referenced those individuals from the Bible that demonstrated courageous leadership.
- B. Developed five steps to grow courageous leaders.

Outline of the class:

- A. Review the definitions discussed and the names of biblical examples of courage that were mentioned last week.
- B. Divide the class into groups of three or four and ask each group to spend 15 minutes to make a list of several steps that will help us grow to be courageous leaders.
- C. Once the task is completed, ask each group to share one area from their list and go around the room until everyone has used all of their steps. Keep a list on the whiteboard of all the responses and then ask for help to narrow all of these areas down to specifically five steps for growing courageous leaders. The list below is a guideline only for areas that are not mentioned by the groups. If these areas are mentioned, consider how to use the supplementary comments or questions to add to the discussion.
 - 1. Ask essential questions:
 - a. What do we fear most?
 - b. Why are we afraid of it?
 - c. How do we normally respond when afraid?
 - d. What are one or two possibilities that describe a way we can respond with courage?
 - 2. Face the fear (move slowly from areas that are simpler to challenging)
 - a. We probably shouldn't get in a plane and try a little skydiving first.

- b. If we are afraid of leading a prayer, then write out a prayer and practice until we are ready to try a public prayer. Maybe it is waiting on the table or something else.
 - c. The idea is to face the fear slowly, small and simple areas first before we try something more challenging (like teaching a class). We may never get there, and we do not have to...ever. We just need to develop ways to grow our courage in other matters.
3. Move out of our comfort zone on a regular basis. Sometimes, our greatest fears involve change from where we are comfortable to uncomfortable.
- a. Discuss the idea of change for a few minutes.
 - i. What kind of change do we fear?
 - ii. Why do we fear change? This needs to be discussed.
 - iii. How do we define repentance, except by the word change?
 - iv. Not all change is bad, and not all change is good. But change is part of life with every breath we draw, so we need to learn how to get out of the rut, the comfort zone, and deal with the changes that are essential for our growth spiritually.
 - b. We need to note clearly that we are not talking about changing biblical doctrine in any way. We are also not talking about change just for the sake of change.
 - c. In the current culture, there will have to be some level of change made if we hope to be effective in reaching this generation. We will talk more about this in additional lessons.
4. Know our spiritual self (How?)
- a. We need to identify our spiritual strengths.
 - b. We need to also have an awareness of our spiritual weaknesses.
 - c. We need a plan that enables us to grow in our strengths and strengthen our weaknesses.
5. Know our greatest Ally!
- a. Reflect on the situation with David and Goliath and all the others we discussed previously. They knew their God and their courage was proportioned accordingly.
 - b. Read Romans 8:31-39 and highlight the questions and responses of Paul throughout this section of scripture.
 - c. Who is our God and what is He capable of through us? Read Ep. 3:20.
 - d. This is critical when we think about leadership and how courage can help us as leaders.

Conclusion:

- A. As we conclude these lessons on courage, we need to give thought to ways we can approach our relationship with God and the world in order to demonstrate the kind of courage we need.
- B. Courage is not so much about a quality or attribute, but a decision made in a moment when we face fear or adversity.
- C. Next week, we will move into a new principle of leadership that will help us develop as God's leaders. Until then, think about how each of us can grow in our courage as leaders and put a plan in place to accomplish the task before us.

Recommending Reading:

Hybels, Bill. *Courageous Leadership*

Maxwell, John. *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*