

Character quality: Courage

What is courage?

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

—Joshua 1:9

Action Step – Ask your student, “Have you ever had to do something that scared you? What was that thing?”

We all know that feeling of looking at something scary, really wishing that we didn't have to do it and yet knowing all along, we will have to do this. Maybe it was a big soccer game, a dance recital, a school play or speech, a conversation “when dad got home.” Maybe it is something bigger than those things but the feeling that ignites in our hearts is often the same, fear. Courage is the ability to do something that scares us and we know that when we are in relationship with the real Jesus, he asks us often and allows us graciously to walk through hard things...but never alone. We will dig into this deeper together in the following sections.

Why can we be courageous?

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

—John 16:33- 33

Action Step – Where do you see brokenness in the world? Where does it seem like Jesus has not fully redeemed things? In those places, that is where we get to be courageous as we follow Jesus and trust that these words are good and true, he has overcome the world and he will redeem everything! What do you think a fully restored life will look like? How does the knowledge that Jesus has overcome the world help you live courageously today?

As the parent, you might even know some scary and broken places of your child’s story that they do not fully understand or know yet. In these places, be gentle but help them see how Jesus might be working and how he is asking them to step out and be brave in certain areas that might scare them. But always remind them, they are never alone!

We Are Not Alone

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

—John 14:15-17

We can be by ourselves but when we know Jesus as our Lord, Savior and friend, he promises that we are never alone.

Imagine how afraid the disciples were when Jesus died, the person that was their teacher, their friend and their savior had been crucified. He was brutally killed and in their minds, he was gone forever! That was a very sad day. But that was the last time that these Jesus followers would ever have to be without hope because 3 days later Jesus came to them in fully healed body and told them that he would leave in body but he would never leave them in spirit. He said that he would send a helper to them, one that would make a home inside of them forever.

Action Step —_Ask your children, “how does knowing that the spirit of God is with you help you be courageous as you face the storms of life?”

If your child is struggling to think of ways that this brings them comfort, please share with them how it impacts your heart. They need to know you’re human and that you need comfort as well.

Pray together that the Lord would continue to show your children that he is with them, that they can be courageous and that they do not have to fear because they are never alone. And you, my friend, that is true for you too!