

COURAGEOUS STUDY SESSION #3

Opening song: You Are All We Have

Opening Prayer: Reading: Words that Spoke to your heart

Review of Last 2 Sessions:

Session 1: COURAGEOUS CALLING

- We are in a spiritual war, our families are the casualties if we don't stand up and defend them.
- How do we defend them? First we realize that we were called to lead them and guide them; like Joshua leading the Israelites into the Promised Land
- How do we lead them: Through God's Holy Word in Scripture
- The word of God is a living word that is not dead but has the words of everlasting life

Session 2: COURAGEOUS PRIORITIES

- We focused on where our treasure is and learning the important things to value in our lives.
- That much of what men value today is transitory and passing; society places emphasis on things that we cannot take with us when we die.
- Instead we learned about storing up our treasures in heaven
- We came to a deeper understanding of how blessed we are and what matters most.
- We also learned about the consequences of our actions and how they can negatively and positively affect our families.

Today/Tonight in Session 3 we learn about leaving a COURAGEOUS LEGACY

Let's play a game; its called Name that Saint:

IN the first 2 sessions we learned about 2 very important Male saints who didn't start their lives on the right spiritual foot but ended it in the glory of heaven

They were St. Francis of Assisi & St. Augustine

Today we focus on another man who did not always say and do the right things but has left a legacy that has lasted till today... can you name him?

He was born around the year 1 BC or so

He had a very bad temper; was known to be stubborn and argumentative

He was a fisherman by trade and was brought to Jesus by his brother

He was called both the ROCK and Satan by Jesus

He denied Jesus 3x's

He led the early church and was the first pope

He was persecuted by Emperor Nero and was crucified upside down in Rome (at his request because he was unworthy to be crucified like Christ)

His name was ??? (St. Peter The Apostle)

All of these men were chosen for a specific reason during their time of life

They were not perfect, they made many mistakes, but they left a great legacy for many years after their life.

What we do or do not do today has not only eternal consequences but generational consequences as well. You will live forever, of that I can guarantee; but where you will live is another question that only you can help to answer.

If you want things to be different for your family, you may have to be a chain breaker or the fork in your family tree. So what do you want your legacy to be?

Legacy Activity:

Take a moment to think about yourself right now. What are the truthful words or phrases that would be captured on your tombstone, as your Legacy, at this point in your life (good and bad; its ok to be honest and we will make up for those that you do not like later on).

Now imagine that you have lived a long life well into your 100's, how do you want people to describe you? What do you want your legacy to be? Write the words on the tombstone that you would like to have written about you.

Cross off the ones that you don't wish for anymore and circle the ones that you need to work more hard at; Take some time to briefly share with your small group members (15 min)

_____ (choose a reader) Courageous Legacy

"Like father, like son." No doubt you have heard those words before. It has many famous examples like them or not:

President George H.W. Bush → President George W. Bush

Archie Manning → Peyton and Eli Manning

Reverend Billy Graham → Reverend Franklin Graham

King David → King Solomon

Abraham → Isaac

The father's mentioned have many reasons to be proud of their foot-step walking sons. While many children take roads completely different from their parents, we probably all know some who sadly have mirrored harmful ways and examples left by their parents as well

Think for a moment about your own father and the patterns you hope to repeat and those you hope to leave behind. Many of us, whether we like it or not, when it comes to raising kids of our own, we seem destined to repeat the same patterns of our own parents. In many cases, that's great! In other cases, it is not.

As we parent children, a good question to ask is what personal characteristics we would be excited to instill in our future grandchildren. Are there things we think, believe, and do, that we would be alarmed by our kids' repeating? If so we would do well to reconsider our courses.

Would you want your children and grandchildren to do the following:

- Look at pornography and commit sexual sins?
- Abuse tobacco, alcohol, or drugs?
- Gossip, curse, take the Lord's name in vain, and pour forth other hurtful things from their mouths?
- Miss church every weekend or miss the sacraments?
- Honor and obey you as you grow older?
- Be loving, kind, and caring to those they meet everyday?

Perhaps the problems lie in waiting for those patterns to emerge naturally, as if fate has something to say rather than intentionally following Christ and modeling Him in our homes. Leaving a legacy starts with looking back and then setting a clear plan for going forward. Like the activity we did with our tombstones.

What we learn very naturally growing up can easily translate into healthy or unhealthy patterns of behavior in our adult lives. It takes COURAGE to walk a different path. It takes COURAGE to break cycles. It takes COURAGE to choose and to leave a legacy that will still matter for many generations to come.

Watch Movie Clip # 3: Grill Out (2:40)

Discussion Questions #1 in small groups (15 minutes):

1.) *Which of the 4 men in the clip do you most identify with?*

Nathan: Absentee father but a positive mentor

Shane: Father who did not practice what he preached

David: Father left after infidelity; home was never the same

Adam: Good dad, no failures worth mentioning

Please tell the men of your group what your dad was like?

2.) *What impact has your father's presence or absence had on you? How has he influenced your faith, your family, and your choices in life?*

3.) *Thinking about your father for a moment, what are the good characteristics of his life that you want to take into your own life? What are the not so good characteristics of his life that you want to leave behind and not take into your life?*

4.) *What person has left the greatest legacy in your life up to this point?*

Bible Study in large group:

In Joshua 23, an aging Joshua gives a final address to the people of God. His life and leadership left a powerful legacy and the words in his final farewell add intentionality to the mark he made.

_____ *(Choose a Reader) Joshua's Final Plea.*

1 Many years later, after the LORD had given the Israelites rest from all their enemies round about them, and when Joshua was old and advanced in years,

2 he summoned all Israel, including their elders, leaders, judges and officers, and said to them: "I am old and advanced in years. **3** You have seen all that the LORD, your God, has done for you against all these nations; for it has been the LORD, your God, who fought for you.

4 See, I have apportioned among your tribes as their heritage the nations that survive, as well as those I destroyed, between the Jordan and the Great Sea in the west. **5** The LORD, your God, will drive them out and dispossess them at your approach, so that you will take possession of their land as the LORD, your God, promised you.

6 Therefore be strong and be careful to observe all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, never turning from it right or left, **7** or mingling with these nations that survive among you. You must not invoke their gods by name, or swear by them, or serve them, or bow down to them, **8** but you must hold fast to the LORD, your God, as you have done up to this day.

9 At your approach the LORD has dispossessed great and strong nations; not one has withstood you up to this day. **10** One of you puts to flight a thousand, because it is the LORD, your God, himself who fights for you, as he promised you. **11** As for you, take great care to love the LORD, your God. **12** For if you ever turn away from him and join with the remnant of these nations that survive among you, by intermarrying and intermingling with them, **13** know for certain that the LORD, your God, will no longer dispossess these nations at your approach. Instead they will be a snare and a trap for you, a scourge for your sides and thorns for your eyes, until you perish from this good land, which the LORD, your God, has given you.

14 “Today, as you see, I am going the way of all the earth.* So now acknowledge with your whole heart and soul that not one of all the promises the LORD, your God, made concerning you has failed. Every one has come true for you; not one has failed. **15** But just as every promise the LORD, your God, made to you has come true for you, so will he bring upon you every threat,* even so far as to exterminate you from this good land which the LORD, your God, has given you. **16** If you transgress the covenant of the LORD, your God, which he enjoined on you, to go and serve other gods and bow down to them, the anger of the LORD will flare up against you and you will quickly perish from the good land he has given you.”

Discussion Questions # 2 Small Group (10 minutes)

5.) What has the Lord done for you over the course of your life? How has he fought for you?

6.) In Verse 6, what does Joshua tell them to do besides being strong? (Remember Courageous Session #1)

7.) Do you build your day around God or do you fit God into your day? Explain how either of those impacts your legacy.

8.) In a nutshell, what happens if you obey God's will? If not?

9.) Compare the two legacy's: one of Joshua's and the other of Achan (the story we read last month).

COURAGEOUS LIVING AT HOME: (Please take this activity very seriously and complete it privately)

Joshua used his legacy speech to remind the people of God's faithfulness and to warn the people of God's response to their unfaithfulness. A good legacy of faith both reminds and warns future generations. Whether it is a good example with rewards and blessings or a bad example with consequences, we can learn a lot from those who have gone before us.

10.) Based on those terms, who has left the best legacy of faith in your life?

11.) How did this person's life and words include both a reminder and a warning for you and your faith?

Consider the impact your biological dad has had on your life. Whether by his absence or his presence, he has left a considerable mark. Before you can actively take part in leaving a positive legacy for the next generation of your family, you have to unpack and deal with the legacy he left in your life.

12.) What are the one or two things, pertaining to your dad and his relationship with you, that you would say you still have to deal with in regards to the legacy your father has left in/with you?

13.) What actions might you consider doing this month, prior to the New Year, to help you deal with the positives and negatives of the legacy he has left with you. (e.g. Make a call, send a card, write a letter, make a visit, etc.)

While none of our earthly fathers are perfect, many of them have made much of Christ with their words and actions and made incredible spiritual investments in our lives. However, many suffer significant scars from a father who left or a dad who was around but whose actions brought hurt and unrest.

14.) If your father left a worthwhile spiritual legacy in your life, write down the most important lessons and warnings he spoke into your life

15A.) Commit this week to contacting your dad and expressing your gratitude for his faithful legacy. Offer to him the specifics of his investments in your life, and tell how much each one continues to impact your walk with Christ and leadership in your family.

15B.) If your dad is no longer with you, consider writing a prayer of thanks to God for your dad. Keep it in your Bible as a reminder of God's favor in your life and to invest the same way in the lives of others.

If your father left a wealth of pain in his wake, moving forward will require healing. Healing requires forgiveness. In COURAGEOUS, Nathan learns to work through the hurts from his father and forgive him. This is a vital step in breaking the chains of the past and moving forward in the future.

Mark 11:25 "When you stand to pray, forgive anyone against whom you have a grievance, so that your heavenly Father may in turn forgive you your transgressions."

Romans 12: 17-19; 21 "Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for (God's) wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' ... Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good."

If you are ready to be free from any bitterness with your father, write down a statement of pain caused by his past actions. Then follow it with a declaration of your choice to be like Jesus and grant your dad complete forgiveness. Pray and tell God of your choice to forgive your father. Ask Him to break the chains in your heart. Write FORGIVEN across the page (even burn it up and spread the ashes out among the earth)

You can also write a letter of forgiveness to your parents stating all of the difficulties, hurts, and sadness that you may have toward them so that you can release them into the loving arms of the Lord; seal it, and bring it with you to the next mass you attend and offer that mass up for your intentions. Come home and burn the letter and think of it no more.

Finally, if you feel ready to do so, consider contacting your dad and expressing your desire to begin rebuilding your relationship with him. Apologize and ask for forgiveness, if necessary, if you have also hurt him in the past.

Next Steps:

Formal Declaration of Intent

January 4 & 6th Courageous Session #4

January 12, 2014 12:00 Mass Courageous Event

Continue reading RESOLUTION FOR MEN book on your own

Questions / Concerns

You Are All We Have:

Refrain: You are all we have. You give us what we need. Our lives are in your hands, O Lord, our lives are in your hands.

1.)Protect me, Lord; I come to you for safety. I say, “You are my God.” All good things, Lord, all good things that I have come from you, the God of my salvation.

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Father's Day Event**

I, (state your name) formally commit to taking the Resolution
for men in church, before God, my family, and the parish
community on January 12, 2014. I acknowledge that
this is the beginning of my journey of becoming the man God
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Neatly Print First & Last Name

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Courageous Legacy (Participant Copy)

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