

COURAGEOUS Living Session #4
COURAGEOUS FAITH

Opening Song: COURAGEOUS

Opening Prayer: _____

Commentary

It was Thursday, February 28, 2013 when over 100 men of the St. Philip Community and other parishes in RI joined together to watch a movie with the same title of the song you just heard.

Some came to this not knowing what to expect, unsure of what was going to go on that night... No one could have ever imagined what was about to take place in our lives! (No one except God, that is)

Some were warriors; others were standing on the sideline watching their families slip away. Some had full control of their lives and others hands were off the wheel!

But, over the past several months since that time, there has been a dramatic change in our lives.

How many of you have recognized this change? (show of hands)

How many of you are happy with this change?

How many of you have family members; wife, children, co-workers, friends who have noticed this change?

Beginning on February 28 and continuing through March, April and May and into June, we came to realize that we were in a fight for our lives and for our families lives.

We have come to realize that we have all been called here by God and that it took courage to respond to that call;

It took courage to continue to come here each and every month;

And it will take courage to stand before all on Father's Day and take the Resolution commitment for a better life

Lesson

Jesus was asked, in Matthew 22: 34 - 40, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? He said to him, You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all our mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Jesus said that LOVE is the answer; LOVE is the Key

We have resolved to love our God more; we have resolved to love ourselves more;

We have resolved to love our families and friends more.

We have decided to stand for truth and integrity.

We have decided to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.

In 2 weeks time the journey of a LIFETIME will begin; a journey not of perfection but of COMMITMENT. Are you ready to begin this journey?

Today's 4th and final session leading up to the Resolution is entitled Courageous Faith. IT is this FAITH that will help us along our Journey of Commitment.

In Dictionary, Faith is defined as: a complete trust or confidence in someone or something; a strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof.

Hebrews 11:1 ~Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen

Most of us are here today because of our faith or because of the faith that someone else had in us.

We would like to take a moment to invoke, by name, the person or persons who are responsible for your faith life. Please mention their name out loud as we go round the room

In order to have what we all hope for (better personal relationship with Jesus, a stronger marriage, improved relationships with our kids, improved work relationships) we have to have faith.

Let's watch the last of our video clips from the movie, Gospel Presentation at the Gun Range (3:40)

Large Group Discussion # 1 (15 min)

- 1.) We would like a few of you to share in 3 minutes or less who introduced you to Jesus and this life of our Catholic Faith?
- 2.) Is it easy or hard for you to share the message of Jesus with others? Do you avoid talking about your faith or do you welcome the opportunity?
- 3.) What day to day opportunities do you think you have to begin sharing the message of Christ? With whom?

- 4.) How actively are you seeking to share Christ with your children? Or are you trusting in your wife, in the school, or in the church to do it for you?
- 5.) Are there any responsibilities that you had not taken in the past, but with your new faith in God think that you may be able to now take care of?

Bible Study: Joshua 24:1 – 18 _____

Covenant Ceremony.

1 Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, summoning the elders, leaders, judges, and officers of Israel. When they stood in ranks before God, **2** Joshua addressed all the people: “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: In times past your ancestors, down to Terah,^b father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River* and served other gods. **3** But I brought your father Abraham from the region beyond the River and led him through the entire land of Canaan.^c I made his descendants numerous, and gave him Isaac. **4** To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau.^d To Esau I assigned the mountain region of Seir to possess, while Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.

5 “Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and struck Egypt with the plagues and wonders that I wrought in her midst.^e Afterward I led you out. **6** And when I led your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued your ancestors to the Red Sea with chariots and charioteers.^f **7** When they cried out to the LORD,^g he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, upon whom he brought the sea so that it covered them. Your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. After you dwelt a long time in the wilderness, **8** I brought you into the land of the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan. They fought against you, but I delivered them into your power. You took possession of their land, and I destroyed them at your approach....

11 Once you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against you, but I delivered them also into your power. **12** And I sent the hornets* ahead of you which drove them—the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites—out of your way; it was not your sword or your bow.^h **13** I gave you a land you did not till and cities you did not build, to dwell in; you ate of vineyards and olive groves you did not plant

Bible Study Questions (Large Group):

- 1.) What was God reminding the people in verses 1-13?
- 2.) Why is it important to look back at our life and be reminded of a historical account of God's work in our lives?

(FROM THIS POINT FORWARD PLEASE READ, LOUDLY, THE BOLD FACE, ITALICS, UNDERLINED WORDS TOGETHER)

14 “Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve him completely and sincerely. Cast out the gods your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

15 If it is displeasing to you to serve the LORD, choose today whom you will serve, the gods your ancestors served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are dwelling.

As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Bible Study Questions:

- 1.) *Before committing to taking the Resolution, what are some of the things (money, greed, pride, etc.) that we have served in our life up to this point?*
- 2.) *a.) After going through the Courageous Living Sessions, who are you deciding to serve?*

b.) There may come a time when serving Him is not popular or recommended...Would you still serve HIM if you were the only one?

c.) (Silently answer) Would you be willing to die for Christ? For your Family?
- 3.) *What do Joshua’s final words say about his own leadership of his home*
- 4.) *Why was it important that Joshua speak for his entire house?*

(together) 16 But the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods. 17 For it was the LORD, our God, who brought us and our ancestors up out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. He performed those great signs before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among all the peoples through whom we passed. 18 At our approach the LORD drove out all the peoples, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

19 Joshua in turn said to the people, “You may not be able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God; he is a passionate God who will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. **20** If you forsake the LORD and serve strange gods, he will then do evil to you and destroy you, after having done you good.” **21** But the people answered Joshua, **“No! We will serve the LORD.”** **22** Joshua therefore said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.” They replied, **“We are witnesses!”** **23** “Now, therefore, put away the foreign gods that are among you and turn your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” **24** Then the people promised Joshua, **“We will serve the LORD, our God, and will listen to his voice.”**

The word of the Lord, **Thanks Be to God**

Ways to prepare for taking The Resolution:

- Daily Prayer over the next 2 weeks!!!
- Getting to a Daily Mass if possible (8:00AM)
- Rosary (Decade a day)
- Sacrament of Reconciliation (Saturday 3:00 – 3:45 PM) or by appointment
- Reread Joshua Chapter 1, 6, 7, 23, 24
- Watch the Movie COURAGEOUS on Saturday night before taking the resolution
- Fasting on Friday before!
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Letter to Father about his role in your life (Physical or Spiritual Letter)
- Forgiveness Letter to Father (Physically or Spiritually)

Practice Resolution

Numbers for Men and Women day of prayer (____) mass (____),

Men and Women Day of Prayer: June 9, 2013 following the 12:00 Mass; 1:00
Together in the Library; 2:00 Eucharistic Adoration and Prayer Service

Father's Day 2013: 11:30 AM in the church; Suits, ties, family!

Questions?

COURAGEOUS

We were made to be courageous
we were made to lead the way
we could be the generation that finally breaks the chains
we were made to be courageous, we were made to be courageous

We were warriors on the front lines,
standing unafraid.
but now we're watchers on the side lines,
while our families slip away.
Where are you men of courage?
You were made for so much more.
Let the pounding of our hearts cry,
we will serve the Lord.

We were made to be courageous,
and were taking back the fight.
We were made to be courageous,
and it starts with us tonight.
The only way we'll ever stand,
is on our knees with lifted hands.
Make us courageous, Lord make us courageous.

This is our resolution, our answer to the call,
we will love our wives and children,
and refuse to let them fall.
We will reignite the passion, that we buried deep inside.
may the watchers become warriors, let the men of God arise.

Chorus

Background:

Seek justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God
Seek justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God

Lead Singer:

In the war of the mind I will make my stand,
in the battle of the heart, in the battle of the hands.
In the war of the mind I will make my stand,
in the battle of the heart, in the battle of the hands

Chorus

COURAGEOUS Living Session #4: COURAGEOUS FAITH
June 10, 2012

Matthew 22: 34 - 40, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? He said to him, You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all our mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Today's 4th and final session leading up to the Resolution is entitled Courageous Faith. IT is this FAITH that will help us along our Journey of Commitment.

In Dictionary, Faith is defined as: a complete trust or confidence in someone or something; a strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof.

Hebrews 11:1 ~Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen

Most of us are here today because of our faith or because of the faith that someone else had in us.

We would like to take a moment to invoke, by name, the person or persons who are responsible for your faith life. Please mention their name out loud as we go round the room

In order to have what we all hope for (better personal relationship with Jesus, a stronger marriage, improved relationships with our kids, improved work relationships) we have to have faith.

Let's watch the last of our video clips from the movie, Gospel Presentation at the Gun Range (3:40)

Large Group Discussion # 1 (15 min)

- 1.) We would like a few of you to share in 3 minutes or less who introduced you to Jesus and this life of our Catholic Faith?
- 2.) Is it easy or hard for you to share the message of Jesus with others? Do you avoid talking about your faith or do you welcome the opportunity?
- 3.) What day to day opportunities do you think you have to begin sharing the message of Christ? With whom?
- 4.) How actively are you seeking to share Christ with your children? Or are you trusting in your wife, in the school, or in the church to do it for you?
- 5.) Are there any responsibilities that you had not taken in the past, but with your new faith in God think that you may be able to now take care of?

Covenant Ceremony.

1 Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, summoning the elders, leaders, judges, and officers of Israel. When they stood in ranks before God, **2** Joshua addressed all the people: “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: In times past your ancestors, down to Terah,^b father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River* and served other gods. **3** But I brought your father Abraham from the region beyond the River and led him through the entire land of Canaan.^c I made his descendants numerous, and gave him Isaac. **4** To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau.^d To Esau I assigned the mountain region of Seir to possess, while Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.

5 “Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and struck Egypt with the plagues and wonders that I wrought in her midst.^e Afterward I led you out. **6** And when I led your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued your ancestors to the Red Sea with chariots and charioteers.^f **7** When they cried out to the LORD,^g he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, upon whom he brought the sea so that it covered them. Your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. After you dwelt a long time in the wilderness, **8** I brought you into the land of the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan. They fought against you, but I delivered them into your power. You took possession of their land, and I destroyed them at your approach....

11 Once you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against you, but I delivered them also into your power. **12** And I sent the hornets* ahead of you which drove them—the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites—out of your way; it was not your sword or your bow.^h **13** I gave you a land you did not till and cities you did not build, to dwell in; you ate of vineyards and olive groves you did not plant

Bible Study Questions (Large Group):

- 1.) What was God reminding the people in verses 1-13?
- 2.) Why is it important to look back at our life and be reminded of a historical account of God’s work in our lives?

(FROM THIS POINT FORWARD PLEASE READ, LOUDLY, THE BOLD FACE, ITALICS, UNDERLINED WORDS TOGETHER)

14 “Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve him completely and sincerely. Cast out the gods your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. **15** If it is displeasing to you to serve the LORD, choose today whom you will serve, the gods your ancestors served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are dwelling.

As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Bible Study Questions:

- 3.) *Before committing to taking the Resolution, what are some of the things (money, greed, pride, etc.) that we have served in our life up to this point?*
- 4.) a.) *After going through the Courageous Living Sessions, who are you deciding to serve?*

b.) *There may come a time when serving Him is not popular or recommended...Would you still serve HIM if you were the only one?*

c.) *(Silently answer) Would you be willing to die for Christ? For your Family?*
- 5.) *What do Joshua's final words say about his own leadership of his home*
- 6.) *Why was it important that Joshua speak for his entire house?*

(together) 16 But the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods. 17 For it was the LORD, our God, who brought us and our ancestors up out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. He performed those great signs before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among all the peoples through whom we passed. 18 At our approach the LORD drove out all the peoples, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

19 Joshua in turn said to the people, "You may not be able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God; he is a passionate God who will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. **20** If you forsake the LORD and serve strange gods, he will then do evil to you and destroy you, after having done you good." **21** But the people answered Joshua, **"No! We will serve the LORD."** **22** Joshua therefore said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD." They replied, **"We are witnesses!"** **23** "Now, therefore, put away the foreign gods that are among you and turn your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." **24** Then the people promised Joshua, **"We will serve the LORD, our God, and will listen to his voice."**

The word of the Lord, **Thanks Be to God**

Ways to prepare for taking The Resolution:

- Daily Prayer over next 2 weeks!!!
- Rosary (Decade a day)
- Sacrament of Reconciliation (Saturday 3:00 – 3:45 PM) or by appointment
- Reread Joshua Chapter 1, 6, 7, 23, 24
- Watch the Movie COURAGEOUS on Saturday night before Father's Day
- Letter to Father about his role in your life (Physical or Spiritual Letter)
- Forgiveness Letter to Father (Physically or Spiritually)
- Getting to a Daily Mass if possible (8:00AM)
- Fasting on Friday before!
- Eucharistic Adoration

*Practice Resolution;

*Numbers for Men and Women Day of Prayer??? Mass???

*11:30 AM on Father's Day; Suits, ties, etc.

*Questions?