

[LIMITLESS]

Week Three: Courage – Study Guide

By Josh Miller

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There are countless stories and autobiographies written about people who were willing to live their lives courageously because of God's calling. You and I can get excited about living courageously as people in the past have done. Yet, we know that being courageous isn't easy. There are so many fears that can distract our focus from the One who gives us courage. In this study, we'll look at some keys that will help us overcome our fears and replace them with courage!

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Is there someone in your life you can think of who is courageous? In your words, what makes them courageous?

Into the Bible

- 2) As we heard in this weekend's message, David gave us some insight on how to have courage in Psalm 23. Read **Psalm 23**. What insight can we get into David's relationship with God? How do you think this affected David's ability to turn fear into courage?

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- 3) The Apostle Paul also knew that it took courage in order to accomplish the things God had called him to do. Read **Philippians 1:19-21** and **27-30**. What desire did Paul have that took courage? What indication does he give that this courage didn't come easy?

How Does This Apply?

- 4) Having courage is directly related to how well you know God personally. If you remain faithful to staying connected with Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, you can have the courage to trust His direction. There is a difference between knowing *of* Jesus and *truly* knowing Him. In your own words, describe who God is and what He means to you. How does that affect your everyday life?

- 5) Courage sees trials as opportunities to show Jesus to the people around us. Courage doesn't mean we will avoid suffering, but that we will face it relying on God's strength and not our own. In what ways might God be calling you out of your comfort zone that would require you to be courageous? What first steps would you be willing to take this week?

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- 6) Choosing courage is making the choice to be fearless over fearful. In the first week of *Limitless*, we identified some fears, and why we're so afraid of certain things in our lives. What would it look like for you to replace your fear with courage? In what ways would that change your life and possibly the lives of others as well?

Prayer Focus

As a church, we are praying together for several things this month:

- Celebrate that we've closed on the Statesville Building! Please also pray for the safety of the team members who have begun working in the building.
- Pray for Christians around the globe who are experiencing persecution.
- Pray for people who need courage to follow God's big vision for their lives.

Continue Learning on Your Own

- 7) One of the most courageous people in the Bible is Daniel. He stood up to many tests, and had to learn to choose between courage and fear. Let's look at a couple of examples where Daniel had to courageously stand up for his beliefs. Read **Daniel 1:8-13** and **6:10-11,19-24**. What things can we learn from the example of Daniel's life?
- 8) Take a few minutes to think about your own life. Are there areas in your life where you are most tempted to follow man because of fear, instead of following God?