



STEP UP

WEEK 2: TAKE COURAGE! BIBLE READING PLAN

Day 1: It's a Choice

Read *Joshua 1:1–9*

When Joshua takes over leading the Israelites, God gives him an interesting command: be strong and courageous. Too often when we find ourselves in intimidating circumstances, we ask God to either take away our fear or to give us courage. But God never tells us He will take away our fear, nor does He say He will make us courageous. He tells us to take courage — and shows that courage isn't a feeling, it's a choice. One we have to make.

Where do you need to make the choice to be courageous?

Day 2: God is There

Read *2 Kings 6:8–23*

Elisha's servant was scared. An entire army had surrounded the city they were staying in and wanted to capture, and kill, Elisha. There was no way to escape. And as he points this out to Elisha, the prophet shows how horrible he was at math: there are more with us than with them. Elisha's servant probably thought the prophet had gone insane. But Elisha was right — there was a heavenly army surrounding Elisha's enemies. God was there. No matter how scary the situation seems, God is there — even if you can't see Him.

Where do you need reminding that God is there?

Day 3: A Matter of Trust

Read *Matthew 6:25–34*

Life brings with it a lot of worries: how will I pay my bills? How will I pass that test? How is that relationship ever going to get better? What if I can't find a place to live or food to eat or clothes to wear? Worry after worry after worry. But God tells us we don't need to worry. The circumstances may seem tough, but if He cares enough about sparrows to make sure they are fed, how much more will He provide for us? It's a matter of trust — put God first in your life and He will take care of you.

Where is God asking you to trust Him more?

Day 4: Focus on Jesus

Read *Matthew 14:22–33*

Following God can be scary. Peter knew this full well. After climbing out of the boat and taking a few steps out on the water, Peter gets scared. He sees the storms and the waves crashing around him and he starts to sink. Peter lost faith that he had what it took to walk on water. The storms convinced him that walking on water was impossible. But when

his eyes were on Jesus, Peter did the very thing he lost faith he could do: Peter walked on water. There will always be circumstances telling you what's impossible, but as long as you keep your eyes on Jesus, the impossible and frightening suddenly becomes possible.

How can you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus?

Day 5: Take Courage

Read *Ezra 10:1–17*

Ezra had a daunting task in front of him. The children of Israel had sinned, again, and intermarried with people they weren't supposed to marry. Ezra felt God calling him to stand up to the sin and challenge the Israelite men to repent and separate themselves from their foreign wives — something we was scared to do. But those faithful to God encouraged him to take courage and do what God said. His obedience, even in fear, brought an entire nation back to God. **How can you take courage and obey something God is asking you to do?**

Day 6: He Never Fails

Read *1 Chronicles 28:20*

Solomon was a young man when he was tasked with building the temple of God. And it was no easy task. It required years of planning, years of craftsmanship, years of preparing articles, sewing cloth, constructing the building, and overlaying everything in gold. It was a huge task — one that could easily have resulted in failure. But David reminded his son of something we all need to hear: God will not fail us nor leave us. **Where do you need reminding that God will never fail you?**

Day 7: With You Always

Read *Matthew 28:16–20*

Right before ascending into heaven, Jesus tasks His disciples with continuing His mission on earth. They were now representatives of God, calling others back to Him — a task they felt inadequate to accomplish. How on earth do you take over for Jesus? But He gives them a promise to calm their fears: I am with you always. And that promise rings true for us today. He is with you always.

How does knowing God is with you calm your fears?

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