

Use this daily Transformation Journal to learn how to study the Bible for yourself. Pray before you begin and ask God to bless you with insight and discernment as you ponder and respond to the questions, which are tools for your spiritual growth.



¹My child, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my
Commandments
²for length of days and years of life
and abundant welfare they will give you.
³Do not let loyalty and faithfulness
forsake you;
bind them round your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
⁴So you will find favor and good repute in
the sight of God and of people
⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.
⁸It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body.
⁹Honour the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all
your produce;
¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be
bursting with wine.
¹¹My child, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof,
¹²for the Lord reproves the one he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

Sermon Notes

Monday, January 25

Courage is most often associated with bravery or confidence, but most of the courageous biblical characters simply saw themselves as obedient to God. These trailblazers were successful because of their strong faith in God, not because they were extraordinarily brave. In the story today, Abram left all he knew and went to a new place simply because God told him to go. In doing so, he experienced the fulfilled promises of God and became the "father" of the nation of Israel, the lineage of Jesus.

Genesis 12:1-9 and 17:1-8

- In the Genesis 17 passage, what are the specific promises that God gave Abram because of his faithful actions?
- What step of courageous faith is the next one you need to take?

Tuesday, January 26

Today's Scripture is the familiar story of David and the giant Goliath. Whereas David confidently defeated Goliath with a sling and a stone, his courage did not come from his hunting skills. David trusted the power of God, which was what ultimately defeated Goliath and the entire Philistine army. Through David's trust in God, the whole Israelite army became more courageous and won a mighty victory.

1 Samuel 17:12-58

- How did David respond to Goliath's taunt in verses 45-46? Why was David so certain he would win the fight?
- What Goliath-like situation in your life do you need to face with God's mighty power, as David did?

Wednesday, January 27

God doesn't fix every problem that comes to you by providing a major miracle. Instead, God works in and through you to resolve those problems. Lift up your needs in prayer and seek God's solutions to your circumstances. This will help you be empowered and strengthened in your faith as you learn to rely on God more and more. Like Nehemiah, you too can find courage in praying and receiving God's plan for any situation.

Nehemiah 1:1-4, 2:1-20, and 6:15-16

- Nehemiah outlined to the king a plan to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (2:1-9). How specific was the plan that God gave Nehemiah?
- How can God use you to be an answer to someone's prayer today?

Thursday, January 28

To be a person of courage, you must be willing to go wherever God calls you to go. Having godly courage doesn't mean being sure of the future or even feeling in control. Godly courage is following God's call to unknown places or situations, no matter where it might lead. Paul had such courage, and by his obedience to the call, he changed the world for Christ

Acts 22:1-21

- Upon meeting Jesus, what did Paul ask him (verse 8)? What were God's instructions to Paul throughout this passage?
- Have you ever asked God in prayer, "What shall I do for you, Lord?" What happened?

Friday, January 29

All godly leadership requires courage. Joshua was called not only to replace Moses as the beloved leader of the Israelites, but also to lead them in conquering the Promised Land of Canaan. To lead them Joshua was called to be strong and courageous. His successful leadership didn't come from his own power, but from the power that comes as a result of continual obedience to God.

Joshua 1:1-11 and Psalm 138:1-8

- According to Joshua 1:7-8, what was Joshua required to do in order to be successful in his courageous leadership?
- Which of the instructions to Joshua seem meant especially for you right now? Why?

Saturday, January 30

Even in the face of overwhelming odds, you can be a messenger bringing confidence and courage to those around you. All it takes is your trust in the living God who empowers you. Gideon's story is an amazing reminder that victories can happen when infectious courage and faith unite God's people, despite what may seem like lopsided odds from the human point of view.

Judges 6:1-6 and 7:1-25

- Why did God reduce the size of Gideon's army to a mere three hundred men (Judges 7:2)? What was God's role in the defeat of the Midianites?
- What was Gideon's role? Who do you know who needs you to "infect" him or her with your courageous faith and encouragement?