



Strengthening Your Soul

facing life with courage from the inside out

WEEK 5. COMMUNITY OF COURAGE

This past Sunday Pastor John preached on how we are all a part of a community of courage—both here at Epicentre and throughout time among the people of God. As a result of courageous ones who have come before us, we are actually a part of a people of courage. This week's lesson, then, points us towards the stories of those who have come before us and allows us to consider what living with courage today might look like.

Introduction Question: Where have you observed courage—in yourself or others—recently?

Small Group Discussion: Courageous Ancestors (Hebrews 11)

The author of Hebrews refers to a number of our ancestors who by faith were able to live courageously. Let's break up into small groups of 3-4 to explore some of these stories in more depth. Give these small groups 15-20 minutes to work through their particular story before coming back to share in the large group.

These are the options you can assign to each small group:

- Noah: Hebrews 11:7, Genesis 6:5-22.
- Abraham: Hebrews 11:8-12, Genesis 12:1-9.
- Moses: Hebrews 11:29, Exodus 14:5-31.
- Joshua: Hebrews 11:30, Joshua 6:1-20.

Here are the key questions to ask for each story:

- What was the situation that required courage?
- What would have made it difficult to have courage?
- What allowed the people of God to be courageous?
- What happened when they acted courageously?
- What do we learn about courage and/or being courageous?

Large Group Sharing: Come back together for each small group to share what they discovered.

Reflection Questions:

- Where in my life might God be inviting me to be courageous?
- Who in my life needs courage to face certain situations and how can I help them grow in courage?

Small Groups: Break back into the same small groups as before to share on the reflection questions and to pray for each other to be able to be courageous in the places we need to and to be able to help others grow in courage too.