

# Courage



## Getting Started

What makes you afraid? Taking a test or giving a report at school?

The thought of moving to a new city or losing your job?

What about your own death or the death of a loved one? In some countries people are afraid of the possibility of terrorism and war. Changes, hardships, danger, death—we could all use more courage to face some of these challenges in life. What makes a person courageous? The Bible gives us examples of courage and encourages us to be strong.

## Improving Your Vocabulary

**hardship (n)** - difficulty or trouble

**courageous (adj)** - brave, not afraid

**determined (adj)** - not giving up easily

**neglect (v)** - to not give attention to something

**blazing (adj)** - burning very hotly and brightly

**majesty (n)** - glory and greatness

**devotion (n)** - strong commitment

**destruction (n)** - things completely broken and ruined

## Reading God's Word

*Joshua led the Israelites after Moses died. He took them into the "Promised Land" where they had to fight against strong enemies.*

### Joshua 1:7, 9

**7** "Just be determined, be confident; and make sure you obey the whole Law my servant Moses gave you. Do not neglect any part of it and you will succeed wherever you go. **9** Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever go."

*King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon tried to make the Jews bow down and worship a false god. Those who would not bow down would be thrown into a blazing furnace. But three men of courage (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) refused to do this. They would not worship anything other than the one true God of Israel.*

### Daniel 3:16-18

**16** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered, "Your Majesty, we will not try to defend ourselves. **17** If the God whom we serve is able to save us from the blazing furnace and from your power, then he will. **18** But even if he doesn't, Your Majesty may be sure that we will not worship your god, and we will not bow down to the gold statue that you have set up."

Esther was a Jewish woman who became a queen in Persia. With courage and devotion, she went before the king to save her Jewish people from destruction.

### Esther 4:14-16

**14** “Yet who knows – maybe it was for a time like this you were made queen!”

**15** Esther sent Mordecai this reply: **16** “Go and get all the Jews in Susa together; hold a fast and pray for me. Don’t eat or drink anything for three days and nights. My servant women and I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. If I must die for doing it, I will die.”

For further study, see I Samuel 17:1-58; John 16:31-33; Acts 4:27-31; 27:21-24;

Hebrews 13:5-6; I John 4:18.

### Taking a Closer Look

1. Why was it important for the Israelites to obey the Law of Moses? (Joshua 1:7)

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2. Why did God tell Joshua and the Israelites to be determined and confident? (Joshua 1:9)

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3. Why do you think Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego wouldn’t try to defend themselves? (Daniel 3:16)

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4. What was Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego’s response to King Nebuchadnezzar? (Daniel 3:16-18)

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5. What does the statement “But even if he (God) doesn’t...we will not worship your god” show us about their courage and devotion? (Daniel 3:18)

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6. How does Esther show courage? What does this show about her love for her people? Her faith in God? (Esther 4:16)

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## Taking Action

If you are afraid of something, remember God's promises and put your trust in him. He has promised he will never leave you, he will always provide for you, and if you put your faith in him, you will live with him forever when you die.

## Memory Verse: Psalm 31:24

**Be strong, be courageous, all you that hope in the Lord.**

## Review the Vocabulary

*Fill in the blanks using the new vocabulary words then discuss your answers with a classmate.*

1. What are some \_\_\_\_\_ that many people face?
2. What kind of \_\_\_\_\_ have we seen in the world?
3. What are you \_\_\_\_\_ to do in your life?
4. Is there anything important that you have \_\_\_\_\_ recently?
5. Have you seen any examples of \_\_\_\_\_ people? Who are they and why do you think they are \_\_\_\_\_? (same word for both)



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