

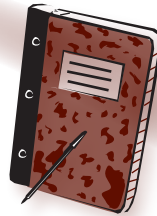
Character Building

What makes you different from others around you? If you have trusted Christ as your personal Savior, there are characteristics that should be true of your life—characteristics that set you apart as a follower of Christ. This quarter, study the lives of twelve godly Bible characters and discover how you can be characterized by these qualities.



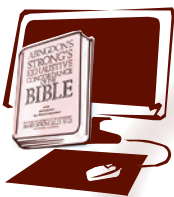
The *Living My Faith* Devotional Bible Study is designed to help you dig into God's Word. Each lesson offers

devotions for Monday through Saturday, along with worksheet to be completed during your group study and articles that will help you better understand and apply God's Word.



Journal: Purchase a journal or notebook to record your personal thoughts and prayers. Bring your journal and student book to class

each week so that you can take notes during the lesson or write any special insights you gain from a particular activity. You may also use the journal for sermon notes or for prayer requests.



Bible study tools: In order for you to dig into God's Word, consider using a Bible dictionary and a concordance. If you are not familiar with these helpful guides, ask your pastor or youth leader for a recommendation. Or visit an online Bible tools Web site, such as www.blueletterbible.org. This site offers commentaries, maps, and many other tools to help you in your Bible study.

Regular Baptist Press is not responsible for the contents of any book, periodical, or Web page referenced in this publication. Reference in this publication of any Web site, product, process, service, or company does not constitute its endorsement or recommendation by Regular Baptist Press.

Living My Faith Student Book • Winter Quarter 2015 • Vol. 17, No. 2 • Published quarterly by Regular Baptist Press • 3715 N Ventura • Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004-7678 • Alex Bauman, editor
Copyright 2012 by Regular Baptist Press • Printed in U.S.A. • All rights reserved.

Rahab's Courage

Monday

1. Look up the word "courage" in the dictionary. Write the definition here.

Courage takes different forms in different situations. It can face danger head-on. Courage stands strong when others falter. It perseveres through the darkest night. In Joshua we find a very unlikely model of courage. Read Joshua 2:1–7.

2. What was the woman's name?

3. What courageous act did she do?

Despite this woman's past and the fact that she was in a pagan culture, God used her in a mighty way. This was just the beginning of His fantastic plan.

4. How about you? What obstacles do you need to overcome? How does this woman's example encourage you?

Tuesday

Our society likes to tell us that we have all the courage we need if we will just “look deep within ourselves.” But the Bible tells of an entirely different source of courage. Look a little more at the life of Rahab.

1. Read Joshua 2:8–11. Look closely at verse 11. What did Rahab believe? What was the source of her courage? Copy her “confession” of God here.

Rahab certainly didn’t just “believe in herself.” No, she acknowledged God as the source of truth and power.

2. Who or what do you trust in for strength?

3. Pray and ask God to forgive your misplaced trust. Then write your own “confession” of God.

You can have the kind of courage Rahab displayed. You must receive it from the God of Heaven and earth. Surrender to Him right now. Then trust Him to give you the courage you need today.

Wednesday

Courage must always walk hand in hand with faith. Yesterday you saw how Rahab had put her trust in God. Today you will see how Rahab trusted God to save her and her entire family.

1. Read Joshua 2:12–21. Describe Rahab’s promise she made with the spies.

2. What was the rescue plan?

3. Read Psalm 119:81 and 114. What has God given to mankind that provides hope and encouragement, a “rescue plan” of sorts?

4. Who has God also given to believers for strength and comfort in difficult times? Read John 14:26.

Ask God to give you courage to trust Him. Remember: it’s not up to you; it’s up to Him!

Thursday

The day of destruction arrived. Joshua and his men were in battle. The walls of Jericho were crumbling—but what about Rahab?

1. Read Joshua 6:16–25. What a horrifying picture! How do you think Rahab felt as she heard the blaring trumpets and the walls of her city falling? (Remember: Rahab's house was within the city wall!)
2. What happened to the rest of the city?
3. How extensive was the damage?

Rahab wasn't superhuman. But she learned to be courageous even in scary times. God wants you to develop courage.

4. Copy Deuteronomy 31:8 below, then underline the phrases that assure you of God's promise.

Friday

It is ironic that Rahab had to display courage while her city was attacked by Joshua and the Israelites. Read Joshua 1:6–9.

1. What did God command Joshua to do?
2. What did God promise Joshua?

Of utmost importance is the source of Joshua's courage.

3. Where did God tell Joshua to turn for instruction (v. 8)?
4. List several commands and promises God has given to you.
5. Where is your ultimate source of courage?

Extra Study: Look in the New Testament for promises of God's presence. Record the references below.

Saturday

One of the most precious aspects of having a close relationship with Jesus Christ is having someone Who understands and has experienced difficult situations. Christ was tried, tested, and faced much opposition with courage.

Read Luke 22:40–54 and Mark 14:32–46. These passages are two accounts of the same situation.

1. Where does this scene take place and with whom is Jesus?
2. In reference to Mark 14:34 and Luke 22:42–44, what kinds of emotions was Christ feeling?
3. Study Mark 14:41–46. How do you know that Jesus was aware of His coming betrayal?

It took an immense amount of courage to go and meet the people who would first betray Him and then crucify Him.

4. Describe a time when doing the right thing required having courage. Did you do the right thing?

Ask God to give you Christ-like courage to follow His will and His Word. He can sympathize with you and give you the strength you need.

WEEK 1

Memory Verse

“And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed” (Deuteronomy 31:8).

True Courage

by Joe Castaneda

When I think of courageous living, it's hard not to remember something that happened to me when I was in sixth grade.

We were enjoying a beautiful West Coast spring day by playing kick ball during PE. Our team was in the field, and we already had two outs on the other team. It was the last inning, and we needed just one more out to win the game. Our teacher pitched, and the ball was kicked right to me. I bent over, scooped up the ball, and then stepped on first base so that our team could win the game.

Now that's courage!

You might be asking yourself, *how was that courageous?* Well, I guess I left out a very important part of the story. When I bent over to pick up the ball, my pants ripped wide open in the back! An ordinary first baseman would have tried to cover his or her rip or would have screamed or would have done something and missed the play. But not me! I fought through the embarrassment and the shame to make the game-ending play.

Okay, I guess when I *really* think of courage I don't think of that play; rather, I think of David, the young shepherd boy who stared down the giant Goliath and brought about a great victory for God. You can read about David's great victory in 1 Samuel 17. Many of you

probably already know the story about how young David went to the battlefield to check on his brothers. When he saw Goliath challenge the Israelites and insult God, he got a little upset that everyone was afraid of the giant, so David decided to fight Goliath himself! Now that takes courage. Think about these factors:

David was probably around thirteen years old when he faced Goliath.

David didn't have any battle-field experience.

Israel's future was in David's young hands.

It's hard to imagine being thirteen and facing such an awesome enemy. Goliath had challenged Israel every day for over forty days (v. 16), trying to get one—just ONE—Israelite to come fight him. The loser would lose his life, and the loser's whole nation would become enslaved to the enemy (v.19). This was serious business for a thirteen-year-old boy to be involved in.

David didn't even have his family's support to stand up for God. In fact, when David's brother heard him talking about fighting Goliath, his brother got a little upset and tried to get rid of his pesky younger brother (v. 28). But David stayed strong, and the more he persisted the more news spread about his courage.

Soon King Saul heard that a young man was ready to fight for Israel, and David was brought before the king (v. 31). Saul was a little worried that David's youthfulness would make him easy prey for a well-trained soldier like Goliath (v. 33), but David still wasn't afraid. He informed King Saul that he had fought and killed a bear and a

lion—in hand-to-paw combat—and that Goliath was just like one of those beasts (vv. 34–37).

Apparently his courage showed because Saul was convinced and allowed him to fight. And as the saying goes, "the rest is history." I think the most important part of this story, though, is not David's great aim with a sling or even David's great courage to face the giant. I think the most important part of the story is *who* David's faith was in. He didn't tell King Saul, "Listen, big man, I'm tough, I've killed a bear and a lion, and I will manhandle this giant!" The key to David's courage is found in 1 Samuel 17:37: "The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." David's courage wasn't in himself; it was in God. He didn't need Saul's armor, Saul's sword, his brother's encouragement, or even the faith of Israel's army. He needed God.

Today we live in a world where people say, "believe in yourself" or "you can do anything you want to do." I know those are attempts to make people feel good about themselves or to try and convince people that they can accomplish anything, but that isn't what God's Word teaches. God's Word teaches that we can have confidence, not because of who we are, but because of Who God is! Paul said it best in 2 Corinthians 12:10: "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." Paul's strength came from God, just like David's.

True courage comes from faith, not from self. It is believing in God and that HE can do anything HE wants to do through you.

**Tammy
Trouble**



**Justin's
Stand**



**Shopping
with
Jill**



How can Deuteronomy 31:8 help me?