

Courage

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13).

A. Memorize the following verses:

Proverbs 28:1

Proverbs 29:25

Matthew 6:34

Luke 12:22-31

1 Corinthians 16:13

Philippians 4:6-7

2 Timothy 1:7

Hebrews 13:6

1 Peter 5:7

(BIBLE / SPEECH)

B. Study the chapter on fear in ***For Instruction in Righteousness***.⁸ (BIBLE)

C. Make a list of things and situations that cause you to be afraid. Next to each, list the attribute of God that you can trust in during those times.

(BIBLE / WRITING)

D. Study the martyrs of the faith, in Roman times as well throughout history. What gave them courage? (HISTORY / RESEARCH)

E. Read ***Foxe’s Book of Martyrs***.¹¹ (READING / HISTORY)

F. Study cowardice in the Bible: Adam, Isaac, Jacob, the Israelites in the wilderness, the disciples, Peter, Pilate, etc. List each person, what they were afraid of, what actions they took, and what the results were. (See form on page 115.) (RESEARCH / BIBLE / WRITING)

G. Study the men of the Reformation -- men like Martin Luther, William Tyndale, John Knox, John Huss. What gave them the courage to stand up

against the corrupt practices of the church when they knew such rebellion could cost them their lives? Copy quotes from Reformation leaders that explain the source of their courage. (HISTORY / HANDWRITING / RESEARCH / READING)

- H. *Choose an area in which you are afraid, and take actions that will help you overcome that fear. (Examples: Take swimming lessons if you are afraid of water. Accept opportunities to speak in public if you are afraid to do that. Learn to go out in the dark.) Pray and memorize Scripture that will give you God's boldness in these situations.* (P.E. / SPEECH / BIBLE)
- I. *Enroll in a class or join a club or team that will force you to be braver than you think you are. Piano or singing lessons will give you opportunities to perform in front of others. Swimming lessons will force you into the water. Sports will help you perform before a crowd. Speech class will help you overcome a fear of speaking before others.* (SPEECH / P.E. / ETC.)
- J. *Study the chapter on "Courage" in **Christian Character**, by Gary Maldaner, pages 10-13.*^{19, 23} (BIBLE / READING / WRITING)
- K. *Study the book of Joshua. Write down every incident that required courage from those involved. What were the results? (See form on page 116.)* (BIBLE / RESEARCH / WRITING)
- L. *Study Bible characters who exhibited courage and faith in God, beginning with those mentioned in Hebrews 11. Make a chart listing each person, the Bible references, and what the person did.* (HANDWRITING / BIBLE / RESEARCH)
- M. *Study the attributes of God. How does each part of God's character enable us to be courageous? Write out your observations.* (BIBLE / WRITING)
- N. *Write an account of a time you gave in to fear, and the results of such fear.* (ENGLISH COMPOSITION)

- O. Study *Choosing Victory, Overcoming Defeat*, Kay Arthur's inductive study on Joshua, Judges and Ruth.^{11,12} (BIBLE)
- P. Study "the fear of the Lord." How does a proper fear of God enable us to be bold in the face of testing and temptation? Write out your insights and conclusions. (BIBLE / RESEARCH / WRITING)
- Q. Write out an account of a time you chose to trust in God and to be brave, and what the results were. (ENGLISH COMPOSITION)
- R. Interview different men and ask them to recount episodes in their lives when they were tempted to be afraid. What happened when they gave in to their fear? What happened when they trusted God and were courageous? Write a summary of your findings. (SPEECH / WRITING)
- S. Conduct word studies in the Bible on the following words:
 Afraid
 Bold
 Courage
 Faith
 Fear
 Trust
 (BIBLE / RESEARCH / FOREIGN LANGUAGE / WRITING)
- T. Study the Psalms. Why could David be brave? On what did he base his courage and trust? List verses and insights. (BIBLE / WRITING / RESEARCH)
- U. Study the book, *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer.¹¹ (RESEARCH / BIBLE / READING)
- V. Research your family history. What can you find out about courage exhibited in your ancestors? How would your life be different now if they had not been brave in the face of danger? Write a story of your family's history. (FAMILY / HISTORY / WRITING)
- W. Study the chapter on "fear" (pages 72-74) in Wayne Mack's book, *A Homework Manual for Biblical Living, Vol. 1.*¹¹ (BIBLE / WRITING)

- x. Study the chapter, "Anxiety and Worry," (pages 14-15) in Wayne Mack's book, *A Homework Manual for Biblical Living, Vol. 1.* (BIBLE / WRITING)

Additional ideas:

Parents:

If our sons are going to mature into men who will be strong leaders in their homes and communities, they must learn to be courageous -- not in their own strength, but with a spirit of faith in the unfailing character of our all-powerful and sovereign God.

A fearful man will be afraid to lead his family. He will be afraid to stand up for what is right when family members do wrong. He will be afraid to confront those under him about their sins. He will be afraid to risk failure or embarrassment.

We must not be afraid to let our sons be afraid! We must not yield to the temptation to shield our children from any experience that will cause them fear. Facing fear, and learning to do the right thing in spite of it, is part of growing up.

We can breed a spirit of fear in our sons by being overprotective them and keeping them from launching into areas that we fear ourselves.

We must also not be afraid to let our sons fail. If we shield them from failure or express dismay at their failures they will become afraid to try anything that would risk failure. A fear of failure will greatly hinder a man's ability and willingness to lead.

Consider and discuss with your son the following questions:

- *Is he afraid of people's opinion of him?*
- *Is he afraid to fail?*
- *Does he put things off?*
- *Does he deny reality?*

- *Is he afraid to try again when he fails?*
- *Is he afraid to try anything new?*
- *Is he afraid to stand up for what is right?*
- *Is he afraid of the future?*
- *Is he overly shy around adults or strangers?*
- *Is he afraid of personal harm?*
- *Is he afraid of talking to others?*
- *Is he afraid to say "no" when others encourage him to do wrong?*
- *Is he afraid to say "no" when others ask him to accept responsibilities that will cause him to over-extend himself?*
- *Does he have the courage to resolve disagreements and misunderstandings with friends, siblings, teachers, parents, etc.?*
- *Does he have the courage to admit when he is wrong?*
- *Does he have the courage to ask forgiveness when he has wronged someone?*
- *Does he have the courage to humbly confront a friend who is sinning?*
- *Does he fear man more than God?*
- *Does he tend to become discouraged or give up when confronted with sin in his life?*

- *Does he accept criticism with a positive attitude?*
- *Is he afraid to talk openly and express his feelings?*
- *Is he afraid to express his opinions?*
- *Is he afraid to share Christ with others?*

Notes and comments: