

Be Strong and courageous
Joshua 1:1-9**Warm Up**

Can you recall a time when you acted courageously? Has there been a time when you have overcome a real fear? What are the things that cause you to be discouraged?

Background and context

Joshua 1:9 is a popular motivational verse amongst Christians. However, there is a danger with extracting single verses and using them as “a promise to me,” without understanding the background and context of the verse. Without context, a verse can be misused, misunderstood and lead to poor theology. Why was Joshua given these instructions? What was he about to do? What principles can we learn and apply to our lives, having understood the context in which Joshua 1:9 was said?

Joshua was given a specific task to perform. Joshua 1:1-9 are his final instructions to ensure his success. However, these instructions were not specific, but overarching and broad to give him a framework in which to make decisions. God was giving him autonomy within the framework outlined. We too, in our lives have autonomy within our relationship with Christ. The Spirit leads and guides us, but it is our responsibility to remain within God’s will.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Joshua 1:1-9 .What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don’t you really understand?

1. Where does the story of Joshua fit in the big picture of the Bible?
2. Who was Joshua? What was his role before this particular passage?
3. In the passage, what is Joshua being tasked to do? How would you feel if given this task? What kind of things might the Lord ask us to do?
4. What other instructions is he given by God? Why are these instructions important ?
5. Why do you think God doesn’t tell him exactly how to defeat his enemies? Why are these instructions vague?
6. What did it mean for Joshua to “be strong and courageous?” What does it mean for you?
7. What did it mean for Joshua to “Not be afraid or discouraged.” What was he facing in his life?
8. How might that instruction apply to you today?

Discipleship and Application

9. If Joshua was obedient in following the instructions, the Lord would be with Him and he would be successful in his mission. How might this apply to us in our walk with Christ? Will we always be successful? If we are not, does it mean we are outside God’s will?

**Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.**

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.