

Taking Courage



Instructor Guide

Church Renewal Resource
Evangelism Ministries USA/Canada Region
Church of the Nazarene

Acknowledgments

Director of Course Development - Dr. Lyle Pointer

Author of Module - Dr. Lyle Pointer, 2015

Curriculum Developer - Thea Ardrey, 2015

Graphic Designer - Jackie James, 2015

Evangelism Ministries

© 2015 USA/Canada Region

Church of the Nazarene

All Rights Reserved

Permission is granted to copy this material for local church training.

**No part of this material may be copied, photocopied, or reproduced in any form
for the purposes of sale.**

Preparation Checklist

The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.

- Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
- Check to ensure the following materials are available:
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials:
 - Pens and/or pencils
 - Other material you want to use
- Check the classroom for:
 - Projector
 - Sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants
- Arrange the room so each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

Notes:

Taking Courage

Module-at-a-Glance

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page.

SECTION	TIME	PAGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
I. Introduction	5 mins.	P. 5	Introduce module, purpose, and objectives.
II. Lecture	25 mins.	P. 6	Facilitator presents concepts and biblical insights into fear and courage.
III. Small Group Exercise	15 mins.	P. 8	Participants discuss four questions in order to integrate and apply the information presented in the lecture.
IV. Action Planning	10 mins.	P. 8	Participants prepare to start a courage-building team who will meet for a period of time in order to become courageous witnesses for Christ and His Church.
V. Module Wrap-Up	5 mins.	P. 8	Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
Total Module Time: 60 mins.			

I. Module Introduction

(5 minutes)

Notes

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes.

- Purpose
- Objectives
- “Fill-in-the-blanks” for the lecture
- Application exercises

The purpose of this module is:

To take courage in order to witness effectively.

The objectives for this module are:

- Discern sources of courage;
- Learn to rely on God’s Spirit for strength;
- Share the Gospel consistently.

Let’s read about a fear-filled man, Gideon, whom God wanted to use in a mighty way.

Read Judges 6:11-24. Notice God’s words intended to assure compared to Gideon’s anxiety .

Slide 2

Slide 3

Assuring Words

The Lord is with you
Mighty Warrior
Go in the strength you have
I am sending you
I will be with you
You will strike down the enemy
Fire flowed from a rock
Peace. You will not die
God answers Gideon’s request

Lack of Confidence

Why is this happening?
The Lord abandoned us
I cannot accept the mission
My clan is weak; I am the least
Give me a sign
I saw the angel of the Lord, I am going
to die
If you will save Israel, the fleece will be
wet/dry

Permission to copy for local church training only.

© 2015 USA/Canada Region

Church of the Nazarene

Taking Courage

For more information go to :

www.usacanadaregion.org/training-modules

II. Lecture

(25 minutes)

Notes

- I. Taking courage is more than **OVERCOMING** fear.
- A. Courage does not **DISSOLVE** fear, but faces danger or uncertainties with confidence, resolve and bravery.
 - B. Courage willingly **RISKS** adverse consequences.
 - C. Emotional courage **ENABLES** a person to persevere in face of difficulties.
 - D. Taking courage **ACTS** in ways faithful to God's character and consistent with caring for people.

Slide 4

Slide 5

II. What are some demonstrations of courage? Here are some examples:

- A. **SERVING**;
- B. **LIVING** in peace/unity;
- C. **SPEAKING**;
- D. **ASKING** for healing;
- E. **USING** the gifts of the Spirit;
- F. **SHOWING** the fruit of the Spirit;
- G. **STANDING** for principle.

Slide 6

III. Scriptures that encourage courage:

Deut. 31:6-8 *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."* This same message is then passed onto Joshua and Israel.

Ps. 31:24 *"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."*

II Tim. 1:7 *"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."*

Josh. 1:9 *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

I Cor. 16:13-14 *"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love."*

Ps. 27:14 *"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."*

Eph. 6:19-20 *"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may*

Slide 7

Slide 8

Slide 9

II. Lecture (cont.)

be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."

IV. Take courage **CONTRASTED** with fear: we do not take hold of fear, fear takes hold of us.

A. So how do we **CHOOSE** courage?

1. We look to sources of courage:

- A. Self-assurance;
- B. Bravery;
- C. Self-assertive (ego-driven);
- D. Models of faithfulness;
- E. Authorization (Matt. 28:19-20).

2. The outcome of courage is not **PREDICTABLE** or necessarily positive.

Stephen in the New Testament Church courageously confronted sin, but died a martyr's death.

Paul pitted the Sadducees against the Pharisees. He bought some time, but also forced Rome's rule to protract the litigation rather than dismissing the unfounded charges. Irritating the religious leaders: was it an inevitable outcome?; was it inspired by the Spirit?; or a humanly and well-intentioned strategy that backfired? (Acts 2:30-23:11)

B. How do we take courage?

- 1. By being **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit (absorbing His power) (Acts 1:8);
- 2. By **FELLOWSHIPING** among believers who search the scriptures and pray for each other (Acts 2:42, 46);
- 3. By worshiping God who **SELECTS** and sends ambassadors on His mission (Acts 13:1-3);
- 4. By **OBEYING** God (Acts 2:1-13);
- 5. By **KNOWING** the truth of the Gospel (Acts 4:12);
- 6. By **SPENDING** time with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

Slide 10

Slide 11

Slide 12

III. Small Group Exercise

(15 Minutes)

Discuss the following questions in your small group.

1. When is risking fool hardy?
2. What methods of courage-building would most help you?
3. Why do you suppose Paul asked for prayer to preach the Gospel fearlessly?
4. How would you like Christians to pray for you to share your faith?

Slide 13

IV. Action Planning/Reporting

(10 Minutes)

Form a courage-building group of four or more. Discuss the how, who, when and expected results for such a group. Plan to meet for three to four months, a minimum of twice each month. Here is a proposed agenda for these meetings:

- a. Pray for unsaved people;
- b. Build relationships with non-believers outside the group;
- c. Find ways to express your love for the unchurched;
- d. Report your attempts to speak Good News into their lives;
- e. Serve as encouragement to each other.

Slide 14

V. Module Wrap-Up

(5 Minutes)

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

End the module by praying together. Based on your group, you may want the entire group to pray together with different people leading, or you may want to instruct the participants to pray in their teams.