

General Leadership Principles

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

Course description: General Leadership Principles Part 10

This course deals with the power of our influence as leaders. The lesson today is the third and final lesson on the principle of courage. Leaders must be courageous. Courage is not only a biblical principle, but one that we see on every leadership front. Bill Hybels' book *Courageous Leadership* is worth taking time to read.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Reviewed the definition of courage and referenced those individuals from the Bible that demonstrated courageous leadership.
- B. Developed five steps to grow courageous leaders.

Outline of the class:

- A. Review the definitions discussed and the names of biblical examples of courage that were mentioned last week.
- B. Divide the class into groups of four and ask each group to spend 15 minutes to make a list of five steps that will help us grow to be courageous leaders.
- C. Once the task is completed, ask each group to share one area from their list and go around the room until everyone has used all of their steps. Keep a list on the whiteboard of all the responses and then ask for help to narrow all of these areas down to specifically five steps for growing courageous leaders. The list below is a guideline only.
 - 1. Ask essential questions:
 - a. What do we fear most?
 - b. Why are we afraid of it?
 - c. How do we normally respond when afraid?
 - d. What are one or two possibilities that describe a way we can respond with courage?
 - 2. Face the fear (move slowly from areas that are simpler to challenging)
 - a. We probably shouldn't get in a plan to try a little skydiving first.
 - b. If we are afraid of leading a prayer, then write out a prayer and practice until we are ready to try a public prayer. Maybe it is waiting on the table or something else.

- c. The idea is to face the fear slowly, small and simple areas first before we try something more challenging (like teaching a class). We may never get there, and we do not have to...ever. We just need to develop ways to grow our courage in other matters.
- 3. Move out of our comfort zone on a regular basis. Sometimes, our greatest fears involve change from where we are comfortable to uncomfortable.
 - a. Discuss the idea of change for a few minutes.
 - i. What kind of change do we fear?
 - ii. Why do we fear change? This needs to be discussed.
 - iii. How do we define repentance, except by the word change?
 - iv. Not all change is bad, and not all change is good. But change is part of life with every breath we draw, so we need to learn how to get out of the rut, the comfort zone, and deal with the changes that might be essential.
 - b. We need to note clearly that we are not talking about changing biblical doctrine in any way. We are also not talking about change just for the sake of change.
 - c. In the current culture, there will have to be some level of change made if we hope to be effective in reaching this generation. We will talk more about this in additional lessons.
- 4. Know our spiritual self (How?)
 - a. We need to identify our spiritual strengths.
 - b. We need to also have an awareness of our spiritual weaknesses.
 - c. We need a plan that enables us to grow in our strengths and strengthen our weaknesses.
- 5. Know our greatest Ally!
 - a. Reflect on the situation with David and Goliath and all the others we discussed previously. They knew their God and their courage was proportioned accordingly.
 - b. Read Romans 8:31-39 and highlight the questions and responses of Paul throughout this section of scripture.
 - c. Who is our God and what is He capable of through us? Read Eph. 3:20.
 - d. This is critical when we think about leadership and how courage can help us as leaders.

Conclusion:

- A. As we conclude these lesson on courage, we need to give thought to ways we can approach our relationship with God and the world in order to demonstrate the kind of courage we need.
- B. Courage is not so much about a quality or attribute, but a decision made in a moment when we face fear or adversity.
- C. Next week, we will move into a new principle of leadership that will help us develop as God's leaders.

Recommending Reading:

Hybels, Bill. *Courageous Leadership*

Maxwell, John. *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*