

General Leadership Principles

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

Course description: General Leadership Principles Part 8

This course deals with the power of our influence as leaders. The lesson today focuses 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. Defined courage as a foundation for the direction of this lesson regarding leadership.
- B. Identified biblical leaders with courage and discussed how their courage was used in leadership.

Outline of the class:

- A. Divide the class into groups of four. Ask all the groups to spend about 3-4 minutes and write down their definition of courage.
- B. Once they complete the task, ask each group to share their definition. A few definitions to consider:
 - 1. Merriam-Webster: "mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty."
 - 2. The ability to do something in the face of fear. Strength in the face of pain or grief.
 - 3. John Wayne: "Being scared to death and saddling up anyway."
 - 4. Remember that courage is not as much a quality or characteristic of the individual as it is a decision that is made in the moment. Courage is demonstrated in that moment.
- C. Based on the definitions shared by the group, ask for a discussion in how courage plays a part in the development of leaders and their leadership. Take about 10 minutes to discuss areas related.
- D. Ask each group to take 10 minutes to list two people in the Old Testament and two in the New Testament that represent courage. Ask each group to also describe why those individuals stand out as men or women of courage.
- E. Once the task is completed, ask each group to share one of the ways listed and go around the room until everyone has identified everything on their list and explained their reasons for why these individuals represented courage. Write the names of these individuals on the whiteboard for follow up with the information below.

F. The following is just a sample list of some that might be mentioned. If not, ask if these individuals demonstrated courage. (*These will be talked about in detail next week*)

1. Noah
2. Abraham
3. David
4. Hezekiah
5. Daniel
6. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
7. Jesus
8. Ananias (approached Paul)
9. Paul
10. Stephen

Conclusion:

- A. Defining courage and recognizing those who demonstrated courage is a first step to the direction we need as leaders.
- B. Today, we learned about several people we find in scripture that demonstrated courage.
- C. Next week, we will examine several of these leaders in detail.

Recommending Reading:

Hybels, Bill. *Courageous Leadership*

Maxwell, John. *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*