



## BREAKING THE ICE

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What is your favorite sport to watch on TV and why?

If you could get tickets to any sporting event, which one would you choose?

## MAIN CONTENT

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This week Pastor Kevin continued the series Battles and Blessings talking about courage. Pastor Kevin described courage as not the absence of fear, but feeling fear and still taking action, still taking that next step.

1. Where have you experienced courage in your life to help you get through a situation?

The word courage also comes from the Latin word that means heart. When you encourage someone, you put heart into them. You can choose to encourage someone to help them feel better, or you can discourage and leave people feeling drained. None of us like to think we are discouraging people, but what would others say about you?

2. Do you tend to be an encourager or discourager? If you were to poll your friends, which would they say you are?

3. Who has been a constant encourager in your life? How has their encouragement impacted you?

We all need encouragement. Especially as we all have had times when we have dealt with loss of some sort.

Unfortunately, you don't get to choose when to mourn and grieve loss. Those moments can happen even when you don't expect them. God wants you to have space to grieve. He gives us space to grieve and not live in denial. He gives us courage to be honest with Him, ourselves and others so that we can find comfort.

# MAIN CONTENT

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Read Joshua 1:1-9

Joshua was grieving the loss of Moses. God allowed Joshua to grieve Moses's death for 30 days and then called him to be strong and courageous. God knew Joshua was fearful, but God was leading Joshua into the Promised Land. He was helping Joshua lead himself and others into the blessings He had in store for them.

4. What is the Promised Land you are looking to right now?

There are certain fears we all face that are especially heightened right now. These fears are:

groundlessness - a loss of control

Isolation - the fear of being alone

Identity - the fear of rejection

Death - the fear of the end of our lives

5. Have you struggled with any of these fears in the last few weeks? How have you worked through those fears? Has anyone encouraged you as you've processed? If so, who?

Joshua had these same fears, but he knew a few things: God has a plan and I have a part to play, God always keeps his promises and God is always with me.

We all play a part in God's plan for the world to know Him and make Him known. We can choose to sit on the bench of the kingdom of God and let our fear overtake us, or we can choose to live our lives with Him and make Him known to those around us.

Right now, the world is very aware of their need for something to save them and those of us who follow Jesus know the answer.

6. How do you make God known in your life? Is it easy or hard to make God known in your life? Why do you feel that way?

Sometimes we make mistakes and allow them to keep us from participating in God's plan. But as Lisa Bevere said, "If you think you've blown God's plan for your life, rest in this, you are not that powerful." God's plan doesn't change, and you are a part of his plan. Your past does not disqualify you.

**God always keeps his promises.** Unlike us, God does not lie. God consistently keeps his word, which

builds our trust in Him and courage to do hard things. When Joshua was in battle, He knew God's words and voice. It was God's promise, "I am always with you," that helped Joshua make it through the battles he faced.

## PRAYER

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God thank you for sending your son Jesus to give us eternal life. Thank you for ordering our steps and being in control when we feel a loss of the normalcy of our own lives. Help us feel your presence so we know are not alone. For those of us who need to know our identity lies in you, please reveal it to us and help us know you care for us no matter what we have done. Give us the peace we need to know our lives are safe in your hands. That you have us and are in the battles with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## ACTION STEP

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+ Partner up with someone this week and pray for them every day.

Be intentional to check on them occasionally throughout the week. Share a scripture, prayer or thought that God brings to mind and let them know you care and are praying for them.

+ Start reading the book of Joshua as we go through the series Battles and Blessings. You can get a synopsis of the book [here](#) from the BibleProject.com.