Joshua, a Man of Courage
Chapter 5 – week 2
September 13-14, 2008

**Big Idea… Standing firm in the confidence that God is with you IS courage.**

**Opening…**
Share with the group someone you know personally who is a picture of courage. Why does that person come to mind? What has been their journey toward courage?

**Read Joshua 1:1-18…**
- God told Joshua that he had what was needed to take the Promised Land. What were the characteristics that Joshua already possessed?
- What tools did Joshua have to fulfill this task?
- What promises did God make to him?

Now, imagine you are standing beside Joshua as he hears these words from God.
- What would be the most encouraging words to you?
- What would cause you most concern?

**Reflect on the following principles from Tim’s sermon…**
- The more intentional I am about knowing God—both His heart and His word—the more I’ll trust Him.
- The more I trust God, the more likely I’ll be to step out in obedience with the assurance that He is with me.
- The more I am certain of His presence with me, the stronger I’ll feel about following through on what I know I’ve been called to do.
- And the stronger I feel about following through on what I’ve been called to do, the more likely I am to stand firm.

Think of one area in which you need courage. How could the above principles help you? In which area do you most struggle?

**Read Hebrews 12:1-3…**
We are encouraged in this passage to “fix our eyes on Jesus” and to “not grow weary and lose heart.”
- Growing weary is a common human experience. What do you need to “throw off” in order to persevere?
- In what ways does Jesus’ courage help you stay focused on God and the race before you?
Reflecting on the Word...
Read the following Psalm silently and underline any words or phrases that catch your attention. Then have someone in the group read it aloud, slowly. Share with each other your word or phrase and why it stood out to you.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling places of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered; He raised His voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah.

Praying together...
Pray for each other
- to have courage in the every day tasks God gives.
- to focus on Jesus so that you can “throw off everything that hinders and entangles.”
- to remember that God is with you and has not left you.
- to “cease striving and know that He is God.”

“I long to accomplish great and noble tasks, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.”
Helen Keller

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