

Kingdom Courage

At the start of 2017, Jago preached a three-week series on Kingdom Courage.

We saw how Elijah had Kingdom Courage, in a land which had turned from God. In this series of studies we will look further at how we can live courageously for Christ, in a land and culture which have also turned from him.

This series is made up of eight hour-long studies. The studies should be led centrally by one leader, with the group breaking into small groups for the discussion sections. The final discussion should be done with the whole group. Each session should be opened and closed in prayer. There are suggested prayer points provided, but please adapt these as your group feels led and in response to themes which come out in your discussions.

Purpose of the study

This study series aims to help your Connect group to think about how they can live courageously in all areas of their life. Each study should be scriptural, prayerful, personal and empowering.

Scriptural - Jeremiah said that God's words were his heart's desire, and used the image of him wanting to devour them. To live with Kingdom Courage we need to be devouring God's Word. The hope is the group would grow an appetite for God's Word. Each study has an extended reading that is helpful to read in advance.

Prayerful – For God's written Word to become living to us, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to come and explain it for us. Each session will start and end with prayer, asking for God to open His Word to us, and to give each person an opportunity to put themselves in front of Him as an offering. All Kingdom Courage starts with surrendering our lives to our King, and there will be an emphasis on this each week.

Personal - Each week we will look at a different Biblical character who shows Kingdom Courage. We will use this character to see how God spoke into their lives, and how he speaks into our lives today. This study should not be a remote, theoretical study, but a practical call to action.

Empowering – This study is not meant to be something we just listen to, but something each person engages with. The format will be based in small groups where everyone has a chance to talk. The sheets are designed so answers to the questions don't need a deep Biblical knowledge. Answers are found by reading the passage, or by talking about the group's lives or experiences.

Sessions

1. Elijah the prayerful prophet – study in prayer
2. Jeremiah the hungry herald - study in God's Word
3. Habakkuk: Finding joy in little – study in giving
4. Nehemiah the brave builder – study in building
5. Esther the humble Hebrew – study in success
6. Heman the melancholy musician – study in suffering
7. Samson the naughty Nazirite – study in relationships
8. Naomi the loveless widow – study in love