

THE STORY OF COURAGE

Use the following notes in your Growth Group or for further personal study of today's message. We hope these will enrich and deepen your walk as you study God's Word.

GETTING STARTED:

1. What stands out to you in this sermon or had an impact on your life?
2. What's the most courageous thing you've ever done?

DIGGING DEEPER

3. What do you feel keeps ordinary people from doing what is right regardless of the circumstances (*Matthew 1:18-24*)?
4. What decision are you facing right now for which you need to be courageous (*1 Corinthians 1:26-31*)?
5. What would it mean for you to make yourself available to God, do the right thing and leave the results to God?
6. How do you respond to Peter's statement to, "keep loving one another," when you have been offended or hurt by someone (*1 Peter 4:7-8*)?
7. Who do you need to courageously love by asking for or offering forgiveness (*Proverbs 10:12*)?
8. As you look toward the future how do you respond to Pastor's comment that, "our greatest days, greatest accomplishments and greatest victories come through days of pain, uncertainty, doubt and fear," (*Romans 8:31*)?

APPLICATION:

9. You need to do the right thing with someone, with something...what is it?
10. Describe your next steps in placing it in God's hand and courageously being faithful. Will you take the next step?

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3/4 in the series: *Stories of Christmas*
December 14, 2014 • Pastor Robb Williams • *Matthew 1:18-25*

There is a beautiful story of courage mixed within the story of Jesus' birth. We have all heard it, but we seldom focus on it. Joseph heard first hand that his fiancé was pregnant, and it was not his child. Yet he stood by his new family. He provided protection for the mother and child during the early years of the child's life. It is a wonderful story of courage from an ordinary man. We too are ordinary and have been called to faithfully do the right thing, and we are called to live courageously. Let's consider an area of our lives, where we as ordinary people, can show extraordinary courage.

1. **Courage is for the ordinary** - (*Matthew 1:18-24; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31*). Our greatest ability is our availability.
2. **Courage overcomes fear and doubt** - (*Matthew 1:18-24; 1 Peter 4:8*). We can face down our own emotions and courageously keep going.
3. **Courage for the future** - (*Matthew 1:18-24; Romans 8:31*). It is only by a journey through the wilderness that we reach the Promised Land.

Commitment

Place yourself or something in the hands of God,
and be courageously faithful.

NEXT WEEK: 4/4 • Luke 1:46-55-Advent: The Story of Mary
Pastor Robb Williams