

CHURCH ON THE MOVE

Acts 7:44-60

BIG IDEA

INTRO TO THE FAMILY GUIDE

Thank you for opening this guide. We are glad that you've decided to *continue the conversation*. Below you will find discussion questions geared toward adults and families. Whatever unit you are in, we would love for you to interact with each other and dig deeper into what we learned today. If you are alone, feel free to pick up the phone to call, text, or digitally interact with a friend on these questions.

The age-based questions for families cover 4 different stages of life—preschoolers, elementary students, middle schoolers, and teens. Parents, it's always awesome to model vulnerability with your children, so, even though each section does not specifically invite parents to share please do so.

SUMMARY FOR THIS WEEK

Matt shared his story from the West Virginia junior high church trip. The group of kids which Matt led had to pick an activity for the next day. The group chose to go caving and soon thereafter Matt's anxiety was rising. The girl's anxiety was high as well as they entered the cave. Soon the girls began to cry. So, in spite of his own anxiety, Matt said, "I gotta be strong for these girls." This was courage--both Matt and the whole group did something they were afraid to do.

"A heart of courage perseveres in giving grace regardless of the circumstances."

PRESCHOOL

1. What is courage? (Some thoughts on courage: courage is being brave even in the midst of fear. Courage means trusting God to help you even when you're scared.)
2. Who do you know that has courage? Do you remember something they did that showed their courage?
3. We talk a lot about sharing the good news of Jesus to our friends and family. It takes courage to tell others about Jesus. Today, pick someone who you can tell

about Jesus. This could be your Mom, Dad, sister, brother, Grandpa, or Grandma. You could call someone on the phone, or, if you can't think of a person to tell, you can practice by telling some of your favorite toys about Jesus!

ELEMENTARY

1. What is courage? (Courage is being brave even in the midst of fear. Courage means trusting God to help you even when you're scared.)
2. Who do you know that has courage? Do you remember something they did that showed their courage?
3. We talk a lot about sharing the good news of Jesus to our friends and family. It takes courage to tell others about Jesus. Today, pick 3 different people who you can tell about Jesus. This could be your Mom, Dad, sister, brother, Grandpa, or Grandma. You could call someone on the phone, or, if you can't think of 3 people to tell you can practice by telling some of your favorite toys about Jesus!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. What is a heart of courage? What does it look like to have a heart of courage?
2. In the sermon, Matt talked about how courage shows grace under pressure. Who is someone you know that has shown grace under pressure? What did they do that showcased a heart of courage?
3. What can you do this week to build your courage? Maybe you can call someone and tell them about Jesus or perhaps you could do something you've always been scared to do. When we are afraid, Jesus gives us the courage and boldness to continue on, knowing that He is in control. But we have to make the decision to step out in faith. Jesus does not make that decision for us. It takes a heart of courage to live in the faith that Jesus offers us.

HIGH SCHOOL

1. Think of someone you know who has shown "grace under pressure" in the midst of a difficult situation. How might their example change your response to something difficult this week?
2. What builds courage? Think again about the person you mentioned who had grace under pressure and displayed courage. Think about Stephen and the courage he possessed. What makes the difference between a person who chooses to have courage and a person who does not?

3. Sometimes when we think of courage we think of the biggest acts of courage we've seen like Stephen's boldness in front of death, and we overlook the other pieces of courage that can change our lives day by day. Sometimes courage means saying "I'm sorry," other times courage is reaching out to a friend who seems upset. To have a heart of courage means that you step up in any and every pressure situation by responding with grace. Think of some areas in your life where you can step up and display a heart of courage. What are ways you can display responding with grace this week?

Adults

1. Think of someone you know who has shown "grace under pressure" in the midst of a difficult situation. How might their example change your response this week?
2. Spend some time brainstorming on the topic: "What builds courage?" Consider writing a list together. Along with this thought, discuss why some people are courageous and others not so much. What made Stephen so courageous? Spend some time entering the story: feel the rage and imagine the faces of the crowd toward Stephen. Consider reading the story of Stephens' stoning again in Acts 7: 54-60.
3. When you have a big fight in your marriage or in an important relationship it's easy to avoid it and go to bed angry. Courage doesn't do this. Courage rolls over in bed to face your spouse and asks, "Are you okay?" Courage says, "I am sorry." It takes courage to listen to people. It takes courage to receive feedback and to own it. It takes courage to call a friend that you have not talked to for a long time. Share either a situation or a relationship where you face the pull between avoiding fearfully or engaging courageously. Invite the person you are sharing with to be your ally in this situation. Let him know how you would like him to support you. Consider praying together for each person that has shared a situation they face.