



Courage- content ideas for Christian collective worship

Definition: For Christians 'having courage' or 'strength to carry on' is linked to faith in God's promises - promises of God's presence, protection and power. When we encourage others we are helping them to find courage. One of the most often repeated commands of God in the Bible is 'do not be afraid'. It is said that it comes at least 365 times - once for every day of the year! Christians recognise that human courage alone is sometimes not enough. They need the assurance of God's help and presence to stick to what they know is right.



Key Bible Character - When faced with a difficult decision, Daniel had the courage to choose what was right.

Questions – Where do these fears come from? Are our fears always bad? How might some fears be good for us? When have you had to be courageous? Where does courage come from? How easy is it to be courageous?

Key Bible verse: Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go' Joshua 1:9 (NIV).

Bible stories and verses linked to courage

Bible chapter and verse

Key message

1 David and Goliath

Lion Storyteller Bible – David the Giant Killer p. 54

1 Samuel Chapter 17
[watch](#)

I wonder how David felt when he faced Goliath. In some ways, David felt no differently facing Goliath than he would have facing a lion or bear that was threatening his sheep...he believed that the same God who gave him courage to do this would be with him in facing Goliath. That was the secret of his courage. I wonder if you need some courage to face your 'giants' like David did? When David said he would fight Goliath, his eldest brother was angry and said that David was conceited ("cheeky brat" Good News Translation). David then went to others in the army and each time he got the same answer. I wonder how this story might have ended if David had given up when his brother was angry with him?

2	Jesus walking on water	Matthew 14:22-33 watch	Peter was able to walk on water until he stopped trusting Jesus and became afraid. In our own lives there are times when we are tempted to do the same thing. When we forget that God is always with us and we become frightened by the situation we are in (dark rooms, unknown situations) or something we see (dogs or bees), we are like Peter. When we see or hear things that scare us, we need to remember to pray and to trust God.
3	There is no reason for us to be afraid	Isaiah 43:1b-2	There is no reason for us to be afraid. Just as the swimming instructor's hand is there to keep you drowning, we have God's promise that he will be there for us.
4	Daniel and the Lions Den Lion Storyteller Bible – Daniel and the Lions p.76	video Daniel 6	The Bible says: "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid – for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9. What gave Daniel courage was not his own strength or power, but knowing that God was with him and would protect him.
5	The Bible says 'speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it.'	1 Thessalonians 5.11	We all need encouragement from time to time to keep us going when things are tough. What could you say to each other take ideas e.g.- You can do it. Keep going. I believe in you. Don't give up. Smile!
6	God's protection.	Psalms 91 watch	We need to make sure that we aren't silly, or put ourselves in a dangerous situation. Even when we are careful, however, there are some things that are outside our control. In Psalm 91 we find more than six things God protects us from. Today we don't have wild animals roaming the streets, but there are other ways we can be harmed. We can thank God that he will care for us on icy roads, during storms and when we are poorly. If we ask God to be our protector, he promises to always be with us. God also promises that, no matter how bad things may seem to us, he is always working "behind the scenes" to bring good out of every situation.
7	'Do not be afraid, for I am with you.'	Isaiah 43:3	God tells us to, 'Fear Not', and that we are so very precious to him. Whatever we go through, we can be sure that God is always with us. He walks with us every day. Just remember the next time you

			feel afraid, God is standing right by your side and he will walk with you. You needn't be afraid when you know Jesus is by your side.
8	Stand up for what you believe in Lion Storyteller Bible – The Earth Shakes p.154 (similar story)	Acts 4 read Also see - Peter escapes from prison Acts 12 watch	Jesus had risen from the dead and ascended to heaven to be with God. Peter and John were Jesus' friends and they were going about telling everyone how wonderful Jesus was. They were healing people too. But some religious leaders didn't like Peter and John telling people about Jesus. They kept Peter and John in prison for two days. Despite this they did not show any fear and would not keep quiet about who they believed Jesus was. So the leaders who arrested them let them go. Were Peter and John afraid, do you think? If so, what of? Wouldn't it have been more sensible to promise not to talk about Jesus again? Peter and John didn't fight anyone, like David did Goliath. Do you think they were heroes, like David or not? Why? When is it sometimes right to refuse to do what other people tell you?
9	Courage to do something different – Zacchaeus Lion Storyteller Bible – Jesus and the Taxman p 130	watch Luke 19:1-10	Jesus showed friendship to Zacchaeus, someone others shunned. Tax collectors were often cheats and unpopular but Jesus knew that Zacchaeus could and would change. We don't know exactly what Jesus said to Zacchaeus or why he changed, but we do know that he was sorry and he was brave enough to make this change. Zacchaeus changed his behaviour, which helped people to forgive him. He didn't just say he was going to change, he showed it in his actions.

Other free resources on courage:

- Watch faith at home 'courage' video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPhckV3cLwk>