

I Am Most Like Jesus When...

Discussion Guide

Week of March 26 - **"I Am Courageous"**

Scripture verse: John 19:1-16

LOOKING BACK:

Everyone loves a hero. At least, the world of entertainment would have you believe we all want strong, courageous people who step in to save the day... preferably of the cape or armor-wearing variety, with superpowers to secure the win, when everyday human strength and courage fall short. We know our world is a mess, and we know someone needs to stand up for what is right.

Leader Note: Ask a group member to pray for your group and tonight's study. Ask them to pray for the Holy Spirit to open the hearts and minds of the group to better learn to follow Jesus. If you know of any specific needs within the group, you could ask them to pray for that person/need as well.

Last week, we learned about being more like Jesus when we pray. We saw that Jesus prayed for himself, for his disciples, and he even prayed for US! He prayed for future disciples, which would include each and every one of us, and those with whom we will share his truth. The point of prayer is communication with God; and Jesus showed us it is how we learn to trust and depend on Him.

What steps did you take last week to turn to God and begin to trust him? Who did you pray for last week?

OPENING DISCUSSION: Share a time when you or someone you know showed courage.

LOOKING UP:

This week's passage provides us with a sketch of the night of Jesus' arrest. Some of the other Gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) provide details about Jesus' arrest and trial that John does not provide. But John did give us a great study of Jesus'

character from which to learn about courage, strength of character, and moral fortitude.

Your group shared earlier some of the times they or others they know showed courage. Have them think back to the events that were shared and then ask, “**When is it most difficult to show courage?**”

Read Matthew 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” Then ask, “What does it mean to be ‘meek’?”

We often view meekness as gentleness and humility. What do meekness and courage have in common? How does it change your point of view if you think of meekness as controlled power or strength?

Choose a different group member to pray. Tell them to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what the Lord wants the group to learn through the reading of this scripture and for clarity to understand Jesus in a new light as you study the passage together.

READ PASSAGE:

John 19:1-16

Answer the first 2 questions in the center

1. What stood out to you most?
2. What was challenging or hard to understand?
3. What does this teach us about people?
4. What does this teach us about God?

RE-READ SAME PASSAGE

out of another bible translation then answer the last 2 questions

LOOKING FORWARD:

Jesus showed the greatest strength of character when he went to the Father in prayer to ask God to take away his impending torture and crucifixion, but only if it was His will to do so. And, having shared his burden and vulnerability with his Father, Jesus

stood and faced what was to come in meekness, but not in weakness. He once again humbled himself as God's servant to take on the punishment He never deserved, so that we might have eternal life with God through his sacrifice. He has commanded us to tell the world about his saving plan of grace, to follow Him and teach others to follow as well. In light of what Jesus was willing to sacrifice for you, where or with whom in your life do you need to take a stand for what is right, or what God is calling you to do?

He's waiting for you to be the hero who has the courage to stand for what is right, even when it is hard; even when it goes against the grain of society; even when it is overwhelming; even when it means sacrificing your desires, your reputation, your livelihood and yes, maybe even your life.