

**Scripture Passage:** Joshua 1:7-9

**Memory Verse:** Joshua 1:9

**Theme Song:** Strong and Courageous

**Big Idea:** We can be courageous because God is with us.

## **READ**

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Read Joshua 1:7–9 aloud to your family. If your kids can read, consider having one of them read or letting them take turns reading.

### **Joshua 1:7–9**

<sup>7</sup> “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

## **SING**

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Play “Strong and Courageous” from the *Doorpost Songs: This Is Love* album and sing together. If you have small children, find a toy instrument and let them bang away! If needed, print copies of the lyric sheet for your family.

## **MEMORIZE**

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Pick a section of the verses to memorize as a family. Use the suggestions below or choose your own. Use the long version for older children and the short version for preschoolers.

### **Long Version** (Joshua 1:9)

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

### **Short Version** (Joshua 1:9)

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid.

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## **LEARN**

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Read the Big Idea and short devotional aloud to your family. If you have time, use the discussion questions at the end of the devotional.

### **What's the Big Idea?**

We can be courageous because God is with us.

### **Family Devotional**

Can you think of a time when you felt afraid? Were you alone, or did you have someone with you? I'm guessing you were probably alone because there's something about being with another person that helps us to have courage. But when we're alone, it's much harder to be brave. Fear and doubt seem stronger, and the obstacle in front of us seems bigger when we're facing it by ourselves.

If you had to do something that took a lot of courage, who would you want to have with you? Would it be your best friend? Your brother or sister? Your mom or dad?

What about God?

In the first chapter of Joshua, the Israelites had to do something really hard! God had promised to lead them out of Egypt and into a brand new home, and they were about to step across the Jordan River and into their new homeland. But there was one problem. There were people already living there. They were strong, and they were ready to fight the Israelites. Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, was afraid.

But God told Joshua to be strong and courageous. And then he made a promise. He said to Joshua in verse 9, "The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

What a promise! God, the Creator of the universe, the one who parted the Red Sea, the one who made water flow out of a rock, the one who led the Israelites through the desert, would be with Joshua wherever he went! And God's promise is true for us as well. In fact, Jesus said something very similar to his disciples in Matthew 28:20: "I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

So the next time you are afraid - whether you're by yourself or with someone else - remember that God's presence is with you. He will never leave you, just like he never left Joshua. And just like he took care of his people, the Israelites, he will take care of you. So be strong! Be courageous! And do not be afraid!

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## **TALK**

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Talk about what you have learned as a family. Use the questions below or ask some of your own.

1. Verse 8 tells us to meditate on God's Word "day and night." What does it mean to meditate? How can we meditate on God's Word?
2. Verse 7 tells us to "be careful to obey" God's Word. What are some of the things that God's Word tells us to do? What are some things God's Word tells us not to do? Read Colossians 3:12-14 for some ideas.
3. What are some of the obstacles or difficulties that you are afraid of right now? How can God's presence help you to be courageous in those situations?

## **PRAY**

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Pray together. Here are some ideas:

- Thank God for his faithfulness to you.
- Thank God that he promises to be with us wherever we go.
- Ask God to help you obey his Word.
- Ask God for the strength and courage to face every difficult situation.