

Talk it Over

Discussion Guide
September 20 – Brave
MATTHEW 28:1-10, 16-20

#signsofhope

Welcome: This is our second week discussing the three key features Jesus calls every one of his followers to embody. How we exhibit these features in our life will either help or destroy our relationships. It will either fulfill or defeat our dreams. The first of these features is that of bravery. Last week we talked about how Jesus calls his followers to show bravery by expanding their inner circles and by bring Jesus within their already existant inner circles.

Theme: Bravery is contagious.

Whenever we see someone showing true bravery and demonstrating true strength, the people around them are inspired and filled with a belief that they too can rise to greatness. That's why hero stories are so appreciated by people. They fill people with bravery. Similarly, fear is contagious.

Talk It Over: Do you spread bravery? (or anxiety)

Background: Jesus called all his disciples on missions of tremendous bravery! They saw him do brave things. They saw him walk on water. They saw him feed thousands. And, their courage and faith grew more and more every day. Then something happened. It was something terrible. Jesus, their friend and loved teacher was crucified. He was dead. Gone. And, it was, for the disciples, as though the bravery had been sucked out of their souls. Then something happened.

Read: Matthew 28:1-10

Idea: Jesus is alive. This news should make you brave.

When the angel appeared to the women at the tomb, everyone was petrified with fear. So, the angel said, "Do not fear." The very fact that Jesus has power over death should eliminate any fear you've ever had in your entire life. In the resurrection Jesus proved that the only thing to fear is fear itself.

Talk it over: Have you ever been in an earthquake or something similar? If so, share that experience.

Follow up: Do you remember the first time you heard the Easter story and truly understood it? Talk about how it made you feel.

Read: Matthew 28:8-9

Idea: Spend time at the feet of Jesus in order to gain bravery.

Jesus knows that we need him. He knows that the mission that he has sent us on requires bravery. And, he knows in order for us to meet the challenge of the call before us we will need to have bravery.

Talk it over: How do you most vividly encounter Jesus in your life?

(i.e. sunset, prayer, serving, cooking, etc.)

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Follow up: What does this time spent with Jesus do for you?

Read: Matthew 28:10

Remember this idea: Jesus will show you the way forward.

When the women were at Jesus' feet, they praised him and worshipped him and celebrated him. But, then he ended this embrace by sending them forward on their mission. Spending time at the feet of Jesus is not the entirety of our call in life. We have a specific job Jesus has given us to do..

Talk it over: What beyond spending time at Jesus' feet is he calling YOU to do? What's your mission?

Read: Matthew 28:16-20

Idea: Be brave. Take risks. Jesus gives you this job. Jesus has told the disciples to go to every nation (even the brutal, savage and dangerous nations) to share the story of Jesus' love. This was a dangerous job, but Jesus was giving it to his disciples as a command. They were all called to be brave and to take risks.

Talk it over: How, specifically, are you going to fulfill the Great Commission? How will this require bravery?

Idea: The church today and how it mimicks the early church.

The early church would gather people in the town square and tell them the story of Jesus. They would invite people to draw together for the story just like we do on Sunday mornings. And, they would see people come to life in new ways.

Pray: Share prayer requests & Share praise reports.

NEXT WEEK: A message about being 'passionate' in the way Jesus calls us to!