

Discipleship Guide: Lead Courageously

Focus:

Courageous leadership is not about position, certainty, or fearlessness. It begins with allowing God to lead us, following Jesus faithfully, and acting with love and integrity even when the path forward feels unclear or costly. This week invites us to reflect on how courage takes shape in daily faithfulness and quiet trust.

Day 1: Before We Lead, We Are Led

Scripture: Psalm 23:1–4; Isaiah 30:21

If you stray to the right or the left, you will hear a word that comes from behind you: "This is the way; walk in it." - Isaiah 33:21 (CEB)

Reflection:

Psalm 23 reminds us that God is already leading us. We are not asked to chart our own path or rely on our own strength. God guides, restores, and walks with us, even through uncertainty. Isaiah deepens this promise by reminding us that God's guidance does not end when we take a wrong step. God's voice gently redirects us, calling us back toward the way that leads to life. Courage begins not with control or certainty, but with trust in a God who leads us forward and faithfully corrects our course.

Questions:

Where in your life do you most need God's guidance right now?

How do you usually recognize when God may be redirecting your steps?

What is one area today where you can pause, listen, and allow God to gently correct your course?

Prayer:

God, thank You for leading me with care and patience. Help me trust Your guidance and listen when You redirect my steps. Give me the courage to follow where You lead. Amen.

Day 2: Courage Comes from God's Presence

Scripture: Joshua 1:6–9

I've commanded you to be brave and strong, haven't I? Don't be alarmed or terrified, because the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. - Joshua 1:9 (CEB)

Reflection:

Joshua is called to lead at a moment of transition and uncertainty. God does not promise ease or success without challenge. Instead, God promises presence. Courage is not the absence of fear, but confidence rooted in knowing that God goes with us. When fear arises, this passage invites us to remember that we do not move forward alone.

Questions:

What fears tend to surface when you are asked to step into something new or uncertain?

How does knowing that God is with you reshape the way you face those fears?

Where can you choose to act with courage today by trusting God's presence rather than avoiding fear? ?

Prayer:

Faithful God, when fear rises within me, remind me that You are near. Strengthen my heart to move forward in trust. Amen.

Day 3: We Lead by Following Jesus

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:1; Mark 1:16–20

Follow my example, just like I follow Christ's. - 1 Corinthians 11:1 (CEB)

Reflection:

Paul invites others to follow him as he follows Christ. This kind of leadership is rooted in imitation, not authority. Jesus' first disciples were not chosen because they were ready or fearless, but because they were willing to follow. Leadership in the way of Jesus begins with attentiveness and obedience. Who or what we follow shapes how we live, love, and lead.

Questions:

What does following Jesus look like in your everyday life right now?

Who or what is being shaped by your example, and what might they be learning about following Jesus?

What is one habit, decision, or relationship where you can more intentionally follow Jesus today?

Prayer:

Jesus, You call me not just to believe, but to follow. Shape my life so that my actions reflect Your love and truth. Amen.

Day 4: Courage That Speaks and Acts for Others

Scripture: Proverbs 31:8–9; Micah 6:8

Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable. Speak out in order to judge with righteousness and to defend the needy and the poor. - Proverbs 31:8-9 (CEB)

Reflection:

Scripture points us toward a way of living that pays attention to those who are easily missed and responds with justice, kindness, and humility. This is not about drawing attention to ourselves or having all the right answers. Courageous leadership is remaining faithful to God's call to love, especially when that love asks us to speak, act, or stand alongside others who are being overlooked.

Questions:

Where do you see people being overlooked or unheard?

What might it look like for you to respond with justice and kindness?

What is one small but faithful way you can speak up or act on behalf of someone else today?

Prayer:

God of justice and mercy, open my eyes to the needs around me.

Give me the courage to act with compassion and humility. Amen.

Day 5: Faithfulness When Courage Is Costly**Scripture:** Luke 9:23–25 (CEB)

Jesus said to everyone, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will save them. What advantage do people have if they gain the whole world for themselves yet perish or lose their lives?"

Reflection:

Jesus speaks honestly about the cost of following Him. Courageous leadership is not always rewarded with comfort or approval. It is shaped through daily faithfulness and trust. Life is found not in self-protection, but in surrender and steady obedience.

Questions:

What feels difficult or costly about following Jesus right now?

How does Jesus' invitation reshape what you value most?

What is one choice today where you can practice faithfulness, even when it requires letting go?

Prayer:

Jesus, give me courage to follow You each day. Help me trust that life is found in walking with You. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

God of grace, thank You for leading me with patience and love.

Strengthen me to follow Jesus with courage, to act with integrity,

and to trust You when the way feels uncertain. May my life reflect

Your presence and bring hope to those around me. Amen.