

FROM THE CREATORS OF WAR ROOM, OVERCOMER AND FIREPROOF



10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# COURAGEOUS LEGACY

DISCUSSION GUIDE



## USING THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Intended for use after viewing the film, this Discussion Guide provides catalysts for biblically based discussion of various themes found in **COURAGEOUS Legacy**. The guide features three themes from the movie and is structured so that groups can discuss the entire guide at once or focus on one theme at a time.

## FILM OVERVIEW/NOTE TO GROUP

From the Kendrick Brothers, creators of the No. 1 box-office movie **WAR ROOM** and **OVERCOMER**, comes the remastered re-release of **COURAGEOUS Legacy**, in theaters. Celebrating 10 years of impact on families and fathers, this updated version of the film includes new scenes and an enhanced look and sound.

Four men, one calling: To serve and protect. As law enforcement officers, they are confident and focused. Yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood. While they consistently give their best on the job, good enough seems to be all they can muster as dads. When tragedy hits home, they are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering. Can a newfound urgency help these dads draw closer to God ... and to their children?

Filled with action-packed drama, **COURAGEOUS Legacy** will once again have viewers laughing, crying, and cheering as they are challenged and inspired by everyday heroes who long to be the kinds of dads that make a lifelong impact on their children. Protecting the streets is second nature to these men. Raising their children in a God-honoring way? That's courageous.



**This guide contains spoilers and is intended for use after a group has seen the film.**

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# THEME ONE: RESPONDING TO TRAGEDY

## KEY SCRIPTURE

- **Psalm 34:19 (NLT):** “The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.”
- **Romans 5:3-5 (NIV):** “Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”
- **Romans 8:26 (NIV):** “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”

Tragedy is an unfortunate reality of the human experience in this fallen, imperfect world. In Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon writes, “*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.*” Solomon affirms that mourning is necessary and appropriate—for a time. Ultimately, though, tragedy requires a response: to remain in grief or to grow in faith. Adam, Victoria, and Dylan are met with unspeakable grief when they face a death in the family. The deep, pronounced pain of this senseless tragedy threatens to overwhelm them. During the funeral, Pastor Hunt (played by Pastor Ed Litton) speaks to the Mitchells’ hearts with the only truth that can properly and adequately address this tragedy: Jesus lives, and because of Him, there is hope.

In the days following the funeral, the tragedy seems like a palpable, tangible presence in the Mitchell household. During this trying time, Adam and Victoria wrestle with regret, guilt, and confusion, but after an eye-opening interaction with a distant Dylan, Adam must consider—for perhaps the first time—how he will ultimately respond to this tragedy.

As Adam continues in the grieving process, he seeks counsel from his pastor. In a moving conversation, Adam and Pastor Hunt discuss tragedy’s role in refining faith and inspiring greater intimacy with God. The men also address the reality that Adam must choose how he will respond to this tragedy—will he be angry for the time he didn’t have or grateful for the time that he did?

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Pastor Hunt refers to the human inability to speak to a “grieving and shattered heart.” According to Romans 8:26, how does the Holy Spirit minister to our hearts?
2. Why does the Lord value our trust? How does our decision to trust in the Lord during tragedy (or other difficulties) foster greater intimacy?
3. Adam says that he doesn’t want to be angry; he wants to heal. Why is this admission an important step for Adam? How will his desire to heal help him through his grief?
4. How about you? Have you developed a greater intimacy with God because you trusted Him amidst difficulty? If so, can you describe your experience? Read Psalm 34:19 and Romans 5:3-5.

## THEME TWO: LIVING WITH HONOR

### KEY SCRIPTURE

- 1 Corinthians 10:23 (NIV): “‘I have the right to do anything,’ you say—but not everything is beneficial. ‘I have the right to do anything’—but not everything is constructive.”
- Philippians 2:12-13 (NLT): “Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”
- Philippians 4:13 (NIV): “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

The Guiding Scripture for this theme—“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.” (1 Corinthians 16:13, NIV)—encompasses several attributes of living with honor. During the film, each of the main characters has the opportunity to either take responsibility or lose credibility. For most of these men, honor is a priority. For one, honor has little meaning.

At Adam’s house one afternoon, the men discuss the effects of fatherlessness as outlined by the sheriff’s report. In debating the report’s validity, they begin to reveal their own experiences with either absent, distant, mediocre, or hypocritical fathers.

Later, the men have a ceremony to publicly demonstrate their commitment to being men of integrity by signing the Resolution. Almost immediately, Javier and Adam are faced with circumstances that test their integrity and honor. If they want to maintain credibility and uphold the Resolution, they must find the courage to make some tough decisions. For Javier, standing up for his beliefs may cost him his means to provide for his family. For Adam, the right thing to do may cost him a best friend.

Javier and Adam make their courageous decisions and await the outcomes of their choices. Both men choose the honorable path, but only Javier’s course ends in celebration. Adam must heed his own advice: Seek the Lord and trust Him, even if you’re standing alone.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. After hearing Shane, David, and Nathan describe their respective childhoods, what would you say about the role of honor in their fathers’ lives? Was honor important?
2. According to Philippians 2:12-13, why does the decision to live honorably require divine guidance? What happens if we try to manufacture honor or sustain a life of honor apart from its Creator?
3. The Resolution holds the men doubly accountable for their actions. How does this accountability give Javier and Adam the courage they need to maintain their conviction?
4. Can you relate to Javier’s experience? Or maybe Adam’s? Has your integrity ever been put to the test in the workplace, at school, or somewhere unexpected? What happened? Read 1 Corinthians 10:23 and Philippians 4:13.



## THEME THREE: BUILDING AN INHERITANCE

### KEY SCRIPTURE

- Joshua 24:15 (NIV): “...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. ... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”
- Psalm 112:1-2 (NIV): “Praise the Lord. Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands. Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.”
- Proverbs 22:6 (NLT): “Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.”
- Ephesians 6:4 (NIV): “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

The Bible is clear about its message: To be saved, a person must accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The acceptance is a personal decision; it can't be forced or bestowed; it must be actively received. So, as much a parent might want to, he cannot save his child. However, a parent has the unique privilege of creating a faith heritage—a spiritual inheritance—for his family. And that parent can do everything in his power to set an example for the next generation.

When tragedy hits the Mitchell family, Adam realizes that fatherhood is an immense opportunity. Adam has the chance to guide and nurture Dylan's understanding of faith, of God, and of salvation. By taking this responsibility seriously, there is a much greater chance that Dylan will be a man of God.

Thanks to Nathan's wife, Kayla (Eleanor Brown), the five friends—Adam, Nathan, David, Shane, and Javier—decide to sign the Resolution in an official ceremony. Each man is required to take his own vows, committing himself to his spouse, children, and responsibilities.

Soon after the ceremony, Nathan tries a new, personal, and intentional approach to make a connection with Jade. His efforts to show his daughter how much he loves her are well received.

Near the end of the film, Adam speaks at a Father's Day service at church. He delivers a powerful message about the devastation of fatherlessness, and he traces his own journey from a somewhat perfunctory fixture to an engaged, proactive father. He pleads with fathers to pursue biblical fatherhood, and to be the “visual representation of the character of God” to future generations.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Adam tells Victoria that he's accepting the fact that he has to "learn to do the hard things." Specifically, he's considering running with Dylan, which represents a major change of heart.

1. Adam realizes that he must invest in Dylan's interests to create a relationship. Why is this good practice for anyone who might be struggling to connect with someone else?
2. As the men pledge their commitment, what aspects of the Resolution stand out to you? Being a good parent? Caring for your spouse? Accepting responsibility? Something else?
3. How does Psalm 112:1-2 relate to the purpose of the Resolution? What does the passage say about building an inheritance? What is the eternal inheritance we have with Jesus?
4. Adam says that a father should seek to win their children's hearts. What are some practical ways that fathers could do this? How does this promote a heritage of faith?

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