Courageous Faith

BY KELLY HALL
For my children: Kayla, David, Megan, and Jenna.
You have taught me much about courage.
It is a privilege to be your mom.

For my husband: Lee.
You are my rock, truth-teller, and best friend.
It is a blessing doing life with you.

For my Lord and Savior: You are my eternal Rock.
I am nothing without You.
All praise and glory be unto Your name.
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Courageous Faith

Power Statements

Chapters One and Two:
- I refuse to be overcome by my circumstances or controlled by my emotions.
- Instead I choose to live my life fully **convinced** that God’s character is unchanging, His promises are unfailing, and my eternal hope in Jesus Christ will never disappoint.

Chapters Three and Four:
- I refuse to pretend with God.
- Instead I choose to be **honest** about my sin, my hurts, my weaknesses, and my need for God’s forgiveness, help, and healing.

Chapters Five and Six:
- I refuse to be self-sufficient, trusting in my own plans and strength.
- Instead I choose to be **dependent** on the Lord, trusting Him to meet all my needs and guide my ways.

Chapter Seven:
- I refuse to walk in willful disobedience.
- Instead I choose to be **obedient** to my Lord, surrendering my fear, doubt, and worry at the throne of His grace.

Chapter Eight:
- I refuse to treat the Word of God as an afterthought.
- Instead I choose to be **attentive** to His Word and His voice.

Chapter Nine:
- I refuse to ignore God’s work in my world.
- Instead I choose to practice a lifestyle of **remembering** and celebrating His many acts of faithfulness and love.

Chapter Ten:
- I refuse to be held captive by an earthly, temporal perspective.
- Instead I choose to have **kingdom eyes** that look beyond the here and now into glory.
Courageous Faith

MEMORY VERSES

Theme Verse:
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Chapters One and Two:
“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10:23

Chapters Three and Four:
“Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.” Psalm 62:8

Chapters Five and Six:
“‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9

Chapter Seven:
Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.” Matthew 16:24, NASB

Chapter Eight:
“Call to me and I will answer you and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” Jeremiah 33:3, NASB

Chapter Nine:
“I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds.” Psalm 77:11-12

Chapter Ten:
“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Chapter Eleven:
“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony. Revelation 12:11, NASB

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart.”
My husband, Lee, and I have raised four children. The plans we had for our lives changed dramatically with the news that each of our three daughters was profoundly deaf. Everything changed: our prayers, our parenting, our family dynamics, our focus, our knowledge of special services, special schools, and technology for the deaf. Adding to our challenges were the frequent moves, deployments, and long hours required by Lee’s demanding Air Force career as an F-16 pilot. I was drawn to the adventurous life of the military and enjoyed meeting new people, adjusting to new environments, and rising to meet new responsibilities. However, raising four children and meeting our girls’ special needs, while living in the constant transition of military life, proved to be more challenging than I ever imagined. But I stand before you today and testify to the truth that, as God has faithfully walked with our family through these adventures, He has proven Himself trustworthy and has graciously used our difficulties to teach me something about courageous faith.

The seven courageous faith power statements included in this study are foundational scriptural principles which God has personally taught to my heart over the years. I have learned that it takes courage to refuse old ways of living and choose God’s way. It takes courage to choose to trust God when you’re overwhelmed by your circumstances. Courage is required to continue to fight the “good fight of faith” when life hasn’t turned out as you imagined. Each time we choose to believe God is in control, when everything in our lives seems to be spinning out of control, we are being courageous.

I have been sharing God’s Word and our unique family story with women for many years. But it was not until September of 2007 that God called me to step out and organize the principles He had been teaching me into a Bible study. As I was listening to Beth Moore teach at a Women of Faith conference, one particular phrase impacted my heart: “Walk forward in the oil of your anointing.” Throughout the weekend, God continued to overwhelm me with a sense of His calling captured in that phrase. God has faithfully walked alongside me, speaking to me and encouraging me, as He led in the creation of this Bible study, *Courageous Faith*.

My prayer, as you participate in this study, is that God would teach you something of what it means to exercise courageous faith no matter what adventures He allows in your life. And that He would enlarge your heart with a clearer picture of Himself as you learn to stand boldly and courageously on His Word in the daily moments of your life.

Before beginning this study, I would encourage you to watch the accompanying DVD. I have included a short introduction to *Courageous Faith*, as well as my testimony. Understanding my story will provide a backdrop to the ways God has used His Word in my life as well as add additional insight to personal stories I’ve included in this book.

With sincere prayers,
Kelly Hall
Chapter One

A COURAGEOUS HOLD: CONVINCED

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10:23

Take a moment to read over the Courageous Faith Power Statements in the introductory material. Notice that each Power Statement contains:

- A key word or phrase in bold type.
- A bold declaration to refuse a particular action.
- A bold choice to walk in God’s way.

In Scripture, we find numerous examples of those who exemplified the same courageous faith described in these Power Statements. Throughout this study, we will encounter ordinary people who refused to be defeated by their circumstances and instead chose to believe God and stand on His Word.

As I’ve struggled to believe God in some impossible situations and considered the inspiring examples of those who have gone before me, I’ve wondered if I needed to ask God for more faith. But God shed His light into this issue as He led me to the story of the disciples asking Jesus to increase their faith. Jesus explained they only needed faith as small as a mustard seed to move mountains (Matthew 17:20). I realized the size of my faith wasn’t the issue. I simply needed the courage to apply the faith I’d already been given.

Author Tim Hansel makes the same connection between courage and faith when he says, “Courage is the bridge between good ideas and actions. We all know that faith is the substance of hope. Well, I believe courage is the substance of faith.”

Courage is the force that drives our faith into action.

Courageous faith involves bold, daily choices to walk in God’s ways rather than our own. It requires a deep conviction that we are not at the mercy of our circumstances and that God is big enough and powerful enough to be trusted with every moment of our lives.

Take another look at the Power Statements in the front of the book. List the bold type words in each statement; these are the seven keys to developing courageous faith.

1. ___________________________ 4. ___________________________
2. ___________________________ 5. ___________________________
3. ___________________________ 6. ___________________________
7. ___________________________
Day One: A Courageous Conviction

When we hear the word courage, we immediately think of words like brave, bold, confident, and resolute. These words provide a definition of courage but they are just words on a page. They don’t inspire, challenge, or call us forward to live any differently than we’re living right now. But what happens when we hear stories of courage? Consider the following examples.

When God called Moses to return to Egypt and lead His people out of slavery, Moses’ initial reaction was fear. But after an interesting debate with the Lord, he chose to obey. He believed God as he stood up to Pharaoh, as he led the Israelites through the Red Sea, and as he led them forty more years in the wilderness. Throughout this entire adventure, we see God demonstrating His faithfulness, presence, power, and glory over and over in amazing ways.

Next consider Joshua, as God called him to take over the leadership of the Israelites. Joshua was probably experiencing a great big dose of “you’ve gotta be kiddin’ me” and yet he chose to obey God’s call to be strong and very courageous. He led the Israelites in battle at the Lord’s direction and kept walking in courageous faith as the Lord defeated their enemies and allowed them to take possession of the Promised Land.

God proved Himself faithful when David, refusing to be controlled by the fear of the Israelite warriors surrounding him, answered God’s call to step out in faith and battle Goliath. When God called Gideon to fight the vast Midianite army with his tiny group of 300 men, he refused to let fear overcome him; his act of courageous faith gave God a theater in which to display His power and sovereignty. Daniel answered God’s call to serve faithfully and courageously in a pagan land even when dealing with difficult and sometimes life-threatening circumstances. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego courageously exercised faith in God when they refused to worship an earthly king and faced certain death. God called Joseph to walk in courageous faith after being sold into slavery and then thrown into prison.

Two things happen each time we hear stories of courage. First, we’re inspired by the faith of those who stepped out, who trusted God when the outcome was uncertain, and who persevered when the easiest thing to do would have been to give in or give up.

We’re not inspired to live differently by a definition of the word courage. However, we are inspired to live differently by seeing courage with flesh on it. We need to see it practiced: living, breathing humanity refusing fear, spurning doubt, and choosing to exercise faith in the almighty, faithful Lord.

Secondly, we’re inspired by the character of God demonstrated in the story. The invisible God is made visible. We understand more fully His unlimited power, His faithfulness, His sovereignty, and the depths of His love. The God of the Bible becomes personal. I come to understand that the God who loved the whole world loves me. The God who rescued David from his enemies rescues me. The God who caused all things to work together for good in the life of Joseph does the same for me.

The same supernatural power that performed miracles in Egypt, that parted the Red Sea, that brought down the walls of Jericho, that closed the mouth of a hungry lion, and saved three young Israelites from certain death in a burning furnace is the same power that lives in you and me today.

- He is the almighty, eternal, faithful, unchanging, holy, Creator God.
- He is the great I Am.
- He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. All authority and power are His.
- Nothing and no one can stand in His way or separate us from His love.
And those are not just words on a page! This is powerful, foundational, life-giving, life-changing truth. I don’t know about you, but now I’m inspired to live courageously.

Courage is the force that catapults us from puny faith to powerful, standing-on-the-Rock kind of faith!

Let’s begin by focusing on our first Courageous Faith Power Statement. Fill in the key word.

- I refuse to be overcome by my circumstances or controlled by my emotions.
- Instead I choose to live my life fully _____________ that God’s character is unchanging, His promises are unfailing, and my eternal hope in Jesus Christ will never disappoint.

How would our lives be different if we refused to be controlled by what we felt and saw? Just imagine yourself courageously believing God no matter what happened, no matter what you were feeling.

In this chapter we will look at some snapshots from the lives of Daniel and his three young friends. As we consider their courageous choices and discover how God revealed Himself in their situations, our understanding of the sovereignty, power, and love of our God will be enlarged by leaps and bounds.

Turn to the book of Daniel and read the first chapter. Describe the circumstances that confronted Daniel in verses 1-7. Use the margins as needed to record answers.

What emotions can you imagine Daniel felt as he was taken from his home, away from his family, and marched 900 miles into a foreign country? Besides speaking a different language, the people of Babylon worshipped pagan gods. In your answer, include your thoughts about the event described in verse 7.

What decision did Daniel make in verse 8?

Why did Daniel make this decision? You may want to use a study Bible or commentary to gain additional insight.

How do we know this decision placed Daniel in danger? (verse 10)

Daniel made his decision with the full knowledge that the king might order him to be executed. He initially met with opposition from the king’s official. This would have been a perfect time to say, “Well, God, I tried. I did my best, but it didn’t work out. I guess I’ll just have to eat their food.” But Daniel displayed great courage as he continued to trust God even when the outcome was uncertain.

What did Daniel propose in light of the official’s argument? (see Daniel 1:11-13)

Read verses 14-16. How do you think Daniel came up with this idea? What was the outcome of this test?
How did God display His power in the lives of Daniel and his three young friends? (see verses 17-20)

Each time we read a biblical story we see both the character of the individual and the character of God revealed. As you read Daniel 1 once again, make two lists, one for Daniel and one for God, noting everything you discover about each one’s character.

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Consider Daniel’s example and the display of God’s sovereignty and power from the Scripture you’ve studied. How do they inspire you to walk in courage today?

Day Two: God’s Sovereignty

Many years ago, I read through the Bible in six months. Although I wouldn’t recommend this reading plan, the experience profoundly impacted my life. The purpose of the Bible from Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:21 is to reveal our God so that we may know Him and trust Him as our personal Lord and Savior. I had never before seen the big picture of Scripture as clearly as I did that June day when I finished reading. My heart was overwhelmed with the following message:

- My God is the one and only Sovereign.
- He reigns in heaven and earth.
- His authority is without question.
- His plans will be accomplished.
- My Redeemer lives!
- The victory has already been won.
- I will dwell in His presence forever and ever.
- Amen and amen!

The entirety of Scripture shouts that God is who He says He is! This truth is the very foundation of our faith: God’s character is unchanging, His promises are unfailing, and our eternal hope in Jesus Christ will never disappoint.

What do you discover regarding the sovereignty, authority, and power of God from the following Scriptures?

- Isaiah 46:9-10 _______________________________
- Daniel 2:20-22 _______________________________
- Exodus 15:6-12 _______________________________
- Numbers 11:23 _______________________________
From the story of Daniel and these passages, we learn:

- God has all authority and power in heaven and earth.
- God is God. I am not.
- I am not at the mercy of my circumstances.
- My problems may be big, but my God is BIGGER.

Record God’s call to courage in 1 Corinthians 16:13.

As we consider these foundational truths and God’s call to courage, let’s make it personal. Think about your daily responsibilities and activities—when you’re at home, church, work, and even in your car. How are you inspired to trust God today? Are you allowing the One and Only Sovereign God to be the King of your daily life? Be specific.

**Day Three: A Courageous Refusal**

We’ve discovered that the courageous faith Daniel and his three friends exercised came from a deep conviction of the sovereignty of God. Today we will focus more closely on their courage as they refused to compromise their faith.

Look at the way the NASB conveys Daniel’s decision in chapter 1, verse 8 (emphasis added): “Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself.” The NIV states (emphasis added), “Daniel resolved not to defile himself.”

Let’s discover all that we can about Daniel’s decision through the following word study. The word resolved is translated from two Hebrew words.

- “siym,” meaning “set, put, establish, plant, set down, make, appoint.”
- “leb,” a shortened form of “lebab,” meaning “heart.”

Look up the word resolved in a dictionary and write the definition here.

With all this in mind, describe Daniel’s decision in Daniel 1:8.

Read Proverbs 3:5-6, then review the Courageous Faith Power Statement. Explain how Daniel’s decision illustrates an application of these principles.

One lesson God impressed on me is that Daniel made a firm, resolute decision ahead of time: before the plate of food was set before him, before the aroma entered his nostrils. It was set in his mind like concrete, immovable and unchangeable. He would obey God no matter what. We use this same principle when teaching our children how to make decisions. Before they are tempted to use drugs or have sex outside of marriage, we help them think through the temptation and make firm, resolute decisions to stand obediently on God’s Word.

As I asked God to help me apply this nugget of truth to my life, He gave some
insight in refusing to compromise my faith. I already know where I am most vulnerable to being controlled by my emotions and overcome by my circumstances. One area where I have struggled to have patience is when I am helping my girls with homework. Over the years I have made decisions ahead of time to refuse to respond in a way that was displeasing to God.

I would actually imagine the possible scenario unfolding in my mind and then envision myself responding in faith. Sometimes this took quite a bit of imagination! I would often pray Philippians 4:13: “Lord, I refuse to respond in a stressed-out, frustrated voice in this situation. I can’t do it in my own strength, but You promise that I can do all things through Your strength.” The next time the situation arose, because I had thought through the appropriate response, I was enabled to refuse compromise and trust God to give me the strength to respond in a way that pleased Him.

Apply this to your own life. Describe a recurring situation where you struggle to respond with faith. Now imagine yourself responding in a way that would please God. Record your discoveries below.

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

Reflect on Psalm 119:9-11. What kind of attention to God’s Word is described? How did Daniel’s choice reflect this kind of attitude?

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

Daniel demonstrated a deep devotion to God’s Word and His holiness. “No compromise” seemed to be his focus. How can you demonstrate the same purity of devotion to God’s Word in your own life?

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

Read Romans 12:1-2. Write down every phrase that describes the way God wants us to live.

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

Our daily choices to refuse compromise matter to God. God is pleased each time we refuse to be controlled by our emotions and instead place our faith in Him. Review the teaching from this chapter so far. How can you refuse to be conformed to this world and instead allow God to transform your life?

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

Day Four: Uncompromising Faith

Read Daniel 3:1-18. Although this is a familiar story, try to read it with fresh eyes. Imagine these are your friends, living in a foreign land, being persecuted for their faith. What command did Nebuchadnezzar give and what was the punishment for disobedience?
What type of jobs did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego hold? How did the king discover that the young Jewish men refused to worship his image? (see verses 8-12)

Nebuchadnezzar was outraged by their actions, but he offered them a second chance as he described the hopelessness of their situation. Write his question to the men in the last portion of verse 15.

Just imagine them standing before this powerful king, surrounded by armed men. Maybe they could hear the crackling of the roaring furnace in the background. Then enjoy their courageous, bold, unapologetic words. Note each part of their response in verses 16-18.

As I envision these young men refusing to compromise their faith and boldly declaring their trust in God (even though their knees may have been shaking), a surge of courage courses through my own veins. In their refusal to compromise, we discover something important about their faith.

Their faith was foundational, not conditional. It wasn’t dependent on the actions of God. They made it very clear that they would trust God whether He delivered them or not. They stated the truth of God’s power and declared their faith in Him, but notice they didn’t pretend to know the outcome. They didn’t pray, “Lord, we will take a stand for You if You promise to deliver us.” Instead they trusted God and His plan. In essence they said, “Lord, we will follow You no matter what You do!”

Courage is the strength of heart to trust God when the outcome is uncertain.

Many people must deal with ongoing difficult and seemingly “unfair” circumstances. They pray for deliverance and when God doesn’t come through the way they hoped, they feel disillusioned and abandoned, and their faith is shaken. God hasn’t stopped loving them, but it becomes easier to believe the lie of the enemy than to accept that despite their current dark circumstances, God is with them and for them and has a divine, loving plan for their lives.

Conditional faith gives our current situations the power to dictate the character of God: If things are good, God is good. If life is falling apart, God is no longer trustworthy. On the other hand, foundational faith believes God’s character remains unchanged regardless of our changing circumstances. Foundational faith requires a deep conviction of God’s sovereignty and goodness. We must choose to live our lives fully convinced of God’s unchanging character, His unfailing promises, and the eternal hope that is ours in Jesus Christ.

Is your faith foundational or conditional? Do you tend to trust God only when He answers your prayers quickly and according to your plan? Or do you trust God regardless of the outcome? We probably all fall somewhere on a continuum between the two. Try to come up with two examples from your own life: one that displays foundational faith and another that illustrates conditional faith. Briefly describe each below.
We can’t leave this discussion without giving glory to God for the amazing way He chose to rescue these courageous men from certain death. Read Daniel 3:19-30. Describe God’s deliverance and give Him praise.

_____________________________________________________________

Do you see the beautiful and powerful presentation of God’s presence with us always? Record God’s promise to you and me in Hebrews 13:5-6.

_____________________________________________________________

I love the way the Amplified Bible expresses the passage: “He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you!) [Assuredly not!] So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, the Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm [I will not fear or dread or be terrified]. What can man do to me?”

Underline all the descriptions in the preceding verses of God’s activity on your behalf and be encouraged! As I consider God’s works on my behalf, I can’t tell you how they fill me with courage. The most amazing thing about God’s constant presence is that He is not a passive, uninvolved bystander. He is constantly, continually helping me, working on my behalf, and strongly supporting me. So I can say with confidence: The **Lord is my Helper**. How has God spoken to you today through Scripture?

_____________________________________________________________

Review the actions of these young Hebrew men described in Daniel 1 and 3. How do their lives illustrate our first Courageous Faith Power Statement?

_____________________________________________________________

What was the foundation of their faith?

_____________________________________________________________

Look again at Romans 12:1-2 and review God’s call to sacrificial, transformed, holy living. We have all been in situations where we had to make choices to trust God rather than ourselves, times when we had to refuse compromise. Can you describe a recent situation in your own life?

_____________________________________________________________

Let’s summarize our findings from this chapter by listing everything we discovered about the heart and character of God and the heart and character of Daniel and his friends. Review the stories and Scripture passages, then make two lists: one for God and one for the three godly men.

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I hope your heart is as encouraged as mine! How has God spoken to you through this activity? How can you apply the first Courageous Faith Power Statement to your own life?

Day Five: God’s Preparation

We have seen how we can prepare our hearts to make courageous choices by building a deep foundational faith rooted in God’s unchanging character. Now let’s change the focus a bit. Have you ever noticed that God often prepares us for the challenges we face in our lives? We might not see it at the time, but as we look back, we become aware of divine interventions along the way. We see that God worked in our lives to deepen our faith. His hand was active, teaching us more of His love, His trustworthiness, and His sovereignty. Or maybe He used circumstances to create a longing for Him. These “love lessons” help prepare us to face the next challenge on our journeys of faith.

Years ago, as I studied the life of Daniel, I asked God, “How did You prepare Daniel’s heart to face the challenges described in this book?” As the mother of four children between the ages of seven and thirteen, I was actually asking God a parenting question. How do I prepare my children to take a courageous stand for God? How do I teach them to trust God’s sovereignty and walk in obedience no matter what happens? I was fascinated with the mystery and wasn’t sure God would even provide an answer.

I began looking at the Israelites’ history and asking the following questions. What was the spiritual state of the Israelites? Who was their king? What events may have had an effect on Daniel’s childhood?

God led me to 2 Chronicles 34 and 35 and the account of King Josiah. Read the description of Josiah’s character in 2 Chronicles 34:1-3. Write down everything you learn about him.

Notice King Josiah’s actions in verses 4-13. Summarize the highlights.

Continue reading through verse 33. What was the important discovery in verses 14-18? How did Josiah react? (verse 19)

What was God’s response to Josiah’s heart? (verses 27-28)

What other actions did Josiah take? (verses 30-33 and 2 Chronicles 35:1)

What an incredible story! The book of the Law had actually been lost and forgotten. King Josiah, even at a young age, had a heart for God, and through his faithful actions to restore God to a place of honor, the book of the Law was rediscovered!
To help us gain a historical perspective on the Israelites’ condition at this time, let’s look at the reign of King Manasseh. Even though his father was the godly King Hezekiah, Manasseh acted wickedly. Warren Wiersbe states, “Manasseh became the most wicked king in Judah’s history, so much so that he is blamed for the fall of the Southern Kingdom (2 Kings 24:3 and Jeremiah 15:1-4).”

Read 2 Chronicles 33:1-9. List a few of the evil practices Manasseh was responsible for putting into place. Include the description of his reign from verse 9.

His reign extended from 695-642 BC, the longest of any Jewish king. He led the nation back into idolatry. Everything that his father had put into place, he tore down. That is just a brief synopsis of the wickedness and sin that was rampant in the nation of Judah at the time Josiah became king.

Josiah’s reign occurred during the years 640-609 BC. Keep in mind that the Babylonian captivity began in 605. I was so encouraged when I realized that Daniel, as well as his parents, would have been living in Judah during a time of revival. They would have celebrated Passover and heard the reading of God’s Word. They would have worshiped and served the One True Living God. Their hearts would have been awed by His holiness, majesty and glory. Now, after that fascinating history lesson, what did you discover about how God prepared Daniel’s heart for the events described in chapter 1?

Let your mind wander back into your past and ask God to show you how He has prepared you to face these challenges with faith. List what God brings to mind.

I am enjoying remembering all the people God has placed in my life. Some I knew personally, some I only met through the pages of a book, and others I met in Scripture. I thought nothing could have prepared me for the day I discovered my firstborn daughter was deaf, but later God revealed that He had spent my entire life preparing me. From a young age, my heart was drawn to stories that illustrated the truth that God is sovereign and causes all things to work together for good.

As these thoughts are coming to mind, I’m reminded that our God always goes before us. God’s knowledge and understanding are unlimited. Our past, present, and future are an open book to Him. Our faithful God also walks with us, lovingly preparing us step by step for all that lies ahead. Your story may be very different from mine. You may not feel God prepared you or was with you, but I promise you that if you are involved in doing this Bible study, God chose you and has been working in your life even when you couldn’t see Him.

Thank God for what He revealed to you today and ask Him to continue to reveal ways that He has worked and continues to work, that you may offer Him praise.

Let’s close this chapter in prayer: Lord, I fix in my mind the courageous refusals to compromise declared by Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Help me to exercise...
the same foundational, resolute faith in my everyday life. Open my eyes that I may notice each time my faith becomes conditional, each time I am tempted to allow my circumstances or emotions to rule in my heart rather than Your character, so that I can quickly declare: “I will trust You no matter what!” In faith I accept that You will never leave me or forsake me. In faith I declare that You are sovereign, almighty, unchanging, and faithful and that all authority and power in heaven and earth is Yours!

Lord, today I want to begin to live in a fresh, new way. I refuse old ways of living. I refuse to be overcome by my circumstances or controlled by my emotions. Instead I choose to believe that you are BIG enough and POWERFUL enough to be trusted with each moment of my life. Today, I choose to hold unswervingly to hope. Today, I choose to stand on Your Word. Today, I choose to take courage, because You, my God, are faithful! Thank You for empowering me to live fully convinced that because You are for me and You love me, I can live the courageous, victorious life You intended me to live, one day at a time. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Forever Changed:

Write out the Courageous Faith Power Statement:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

How did God speak to you this week? Include pictures of courageous faith.
Day 1: _______________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Day 2: _______________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Day 3: _______________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Day 4: _______________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Day 5: _______________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What eternal work do you want God to accomplish in you? Surrender this desire into God’s hands through prayer.

Today, with my feet firmly planted on the Rock, I choose courage!