

# BOLDER

It takes a village

## **Bible Study** **Bold Moves**

### Icebreaker Activity

This Bible study encourages the group to consider their own strength and the human ability to be strong in different situations. Encourage members of the group to share their thoughts and answers to the following questions:

- **Think of a time when you have had to exert strength.**

Some may talk about an example related to physical strength, whereas others may talk about a strength of will or spirit.

- **What does it mean to be strong?**
- **What different types of strength do we see in one another?**

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#### TOP TIPS

*Print the Bible reading chapter on A4 sheets for people to take home, ensuring the text is clear and easy to read.*

### Bible Reading

#### **Joshua Chapter 1**

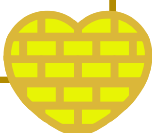
### Study Questions

1. Joshua was called by God to complete the task that God had originally set Moses. Joshua was to be the one to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. How do you think Joshua felt about this task and what kind of strength would Joshua require to fulfil this task?

2. Read Joshua 1:5 and Matthew 28:19-20. 'I will never leave you nor forsake you', 'Surely I am with you always' – we can hear some similarities in the words of God to Joshua and of Jesus to the disciples. Reflecting on the words 'No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life' (Joshua 1:5), does this give you a sense of boldness? If so, why and how?

3. Read Joshua 1:6 and 7. We hear the words 'Be strong and courageous' in verse 6, and they are repeated with 'Be strong and very courageous' in verse 7. The first time, it's 'because you will do ...' and signifies an action. The second time it's accompanied by 'stick to what's right and true', an instruction on how to be successful. How do these words speak to you about strength and courage?

The whole book of Joshua gives an account of the strength and courage of Joshua. We hear in chapter 4 how he continued to guide the Israelites, carrying the Ark of the Covenant across the River Jordan (there are similarities here to when the Israelites followed Moses across the Red Sea and God banked up the waters on either side.) It was a bold step indeed for Joshua to follow his Lord's commands. In chapter 5 we hear how the Amorite and Canaanite kings heard of the crossing of the River Jordan and their 'hearts melted in fear' (v1), meaning they no longer wanted to confront the Israelites! The story could make a blockbusting action film! The story continues in chapter 6 where we find Joshua and the Israelites marching round the



walls of Jericho. For six days they marched around the walls once a day. Then on the seventh day they marched around the walls of the city seven times. If you want to read the whole story, it's a hard-hitting one as the Israelites take the city of Jericho with force, and the only lives spared were those of Rahab the prostitute and those with her in her house (v17), since she had hidden the spies Joshua had sent before the battle.

But for a moment, let's consider the walls of Jericho falling so that the city can belong to the Lord, and it can be filled with goodness and light.

4. What walls do you think need breaking down in our corps and communities?

(Encourage answers such as walls of discrimination, ageism, selfishness, difference of opinion etc).

5. Think about the things that divide God's people in today's world and Church. What can we do to take a bold step towards breaking down these walls in grace and love?

### **Personal Reflection Time**



*Option to play some gentle, acoustic worship music while people have a quiet time using the following question to guide personal thoughts and reflection. Having the following question printed and displayed somewhere for people to read and consider might be helpful for those who struggle to remember what has been asked of them.*

### **In what areas of your life do you need to take a bold move?**

This could look like boldly stepping up to a challenge, boldly moving towards or away from something, or perhaps gently speaking out about walls that needs breaking down in your own life or the life of the corps/church.

### **Closing Prayer**

Father God, today we choose to boldly listen to your voice in our hearts and minds and follow where you lead us. We may not always feel strong, but we rest in the promise of your love and strength for each one of us, remembering your words 'I am with you always'.

We pray for strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. We pray that the walls of differences in our families, our churches, communities, and in society will be broken down. Forgive us for the times when we have chosen not to be bold. Give us the strength now to be bold and to be strong knowing that you are with us. Amen.

