**Small Group Reflections**

Lent is a significant season in the Christian calendar and offers the time and opportunity to consider Christ's sacrifice and seek to deepen relationships with God.    
  
This series, Courage for the Journey, will explore Biblical examples of courageous disciples and how their journey applies to our journey.

In addition to the sermon outlines (found at www.salvationist.org/resources/key-dates/lent), this resource contains reflective questions to be explored in a small group setting each week. These can be completed weekly as the sermon series progresses, or as stand-alone Bible studies without the sermons.

Each week features a key scripture passage and a thought-provoking question to inspire personal testimonies. This is followed by reflective questions that guide a deeper exploration of the journey within that theme. Leaders can add to these outlines and adapt it to fit the group.

**Week 1 - Courage for the Journey**

**Bible Reading: Judges 6**

***Testimony subject – How did God step in to your life and strengthen you?***

**Reflecting on Hopelessness**

* How can you relate to the hopeless position that the Israelites found themselves in during Gideon’s time?
* What are the modern-day challenges that make it difficult to stay faithful to God?

**Remembering God’s Faithfulness**

* Can you recall a time when God provided for you or answered a prayer in a moment of need?
* Why is it important to actively remember God’s past faithfulness in our journey of faith?
* How does reflecting on these moments encourage you to trust him in current challenges?

**Our Weakness is God’s Strength**

* How does Gideon’s story encourage you to step out in faith despite feeling inadequate or overwhelmed?
* What areas of your life require you to depend on God’s strength rather than your own abilities?

**The Courage to Stand Firm**

* What does it mean to you to be a courageous disciple of Christ in a world that often disregards Christian values?
* How can you practically stand against what is evil or unjust in your everyday life, trusting in God’s guidance?

**Week 2 - Courage to step into the unknown**

**Bible Reading: Genesis 12:1-5**

***Testimony subject – How did you discover God’s will for your life?***

**Hearing God’s Call**

* Abram heard God’s voice without the resources we often rely on today. How do you create space in your life to hear God speaking? What might make it challenging to discern his voice amidst the noise of daily life?
* Share a time when you felt God prompting you to take a step of faith. How did you respond, and what did you learn?

**Facing Change with Faith**

* How do you typically feel about major life changes or stepping out of your comfort zone? Are there ways in which you resist God’s leading due to fear of the unknown?
* What practical steps can you take to trust God more fully when he calls you to a new direction?

**Lessons from Jonah and Peter**

* Jonah initially resisted God’s call, and Peter faltered in the storm. What do their stories teach us about the challenges of stepping into the unknown and how God responds to our struggles?
* How can we keep our focus on God, like Peter was called to do, when life feels overwhelming or uncertain?

**Stepping Out in Faith**

* What is one specific step of faith and full surrender that God might be asking you to take right now, whether in relationships, work, ministry, or personal growth?
* How can the group support and encourage one another to step into God’s plan with courage and trust.

**Week 3 – Courage in the face of opposition**

**Bible text: Numbers 13, Joshua 14:6-12**

***Testimony subject – How have you found courage and hope in the face of opposition?***

**Responding to Opposition**

* How do you respond when others, even fellow Christians, doubt or discourage your faith or behaviour?
* What practical steps can you take to stay grounded in God’s promises when facing resistance or challenges?

**Trusting God in Difficult Circumstances**

* What examples from your own life remind you that “nothing is impossible with God”?
* How has the support of Christian friends, mentors, or your church family helped you stay faithful during difficult times?
* In what ways can you actively support and encourage others who may be facing opposition in their faith journey?

**Patience and Perseverance in God’s Timing**

* How do you remain patient and faithful when God’s timing seems delayed?
* What Scriptures or spiritual practices help you trust God while waiting for his plans to unfold?

**Praying for Others and Forgiving Opponents**

* Jesus taught us to pray for God’s will to be done and to forgive others. Why is forgiveness such a critical part of maintaining peace in the face of opposition?
* How can you intentionally pray for those who oppose you in your own situation?
* How can we all pray for persecuted Christians around the world who continue to reflect Christ’s love and grace despite fear of violence or even death?

**Week 4 – Courageous Women**

**Bible Reading: Esther 7:1-4**

***Testimony subject – Who are the courageous and inspirational women that God has placed in your life?***

**Courageous Women in Your Life**

* Who are some of the courageous and inspirational women God has placed in your life? What qualities or actions stand out to you about them?
* How have these women reflected God’s love, strength, or guidance in your life?

**Responding to God’s Call**

* Like Esther, have you ever felt God calling you to step up and do something courageous, even if it came with risk or opposition?
* How do you discern when God is speaking to you or asking you to take action?

**God’s Placement and Timing**

* How can you trust in God’s timing when it comes to placing courageous women (and men) in your journey through life?
* Reflect on the idea that it’s ‘not by chance’ that you are where you are. How do you trace and see God’s purpose for you in your current roles, relationships, or circumstances?

**Standing for God and Justice**

* Is there a situation in your life where God might be calling you to speak out or take a stand?
* How can you make yourself available for God’s purposes? What does it mean to you to be ‘repurposed’ for his Kingdom?
* What practical steps can you take this week to listen for God’s guidance and act courageously in your faith journey?

**Week 5 - Courage to live counter-culturally**

**Bible Reading: Daniel 6 :1-23, Matthew 5-7**

***Testimony subject – How has God has given you courage to live in a way that is different from society?***

**Living Differently for God**

* In what ways does today’s society pressure us to conform, and how can we remain loyal to God’s teachings instead?
* What spiritual disciplines or practices help you stay grounded in your faith when faced with societal challenges?

**Faith and Integrity in Action**

* Have you seen examples where someone’s faithfulness to God inspired others?
* How can we ensure our faith, honesty, and integrity leave a positive impression on those around us?

**Counter-Cultural Living**

* Jesus’ teachings in Matthew 5–7 call us to live counter-culturally. How can we apply those principles in practical ways in our workplaces, schools, or communities?
* Think about the key teachings from the Sermon on the Mount (e.g., loving your enemies, being peacemakers, forgiving others, not worrying). Which instructions feel most challenging to live out in your current environment? Why?

**Encouraging Each Other in Courage**

* Who has inspired you by their courage and faithfulness in difficult circumstances? How did their example impact your faith?
* What steps can we take as a group to support one another in making courageous, counter-cultural decisions for God, and maintain spiritual disciplines in our daily lives?

**Week 6 - Courage to follow God’s call**

**Bible Text: Matthew 20:17 – 19**

***Testimony subject – How has God has equipped you to follow his calling?***

**Courageous Discipleship**

* At the end of these six weeks, what does it mean to you to follow Jesus courageously in your everyday life?
* Reflect on areas in your life where following Jesus feels costly or counter-cultural. How can you draw strength from Jesus' example of obedience and trust?

**Following God’s call**

* How do you see God’s plan for your life unfolding in your current situation?
* Share how God has equipped you for the roles you are currently in. What gifts, talents, or opportunities has He provided to help you fulfil His calling?

**Trusting God For the Future**

* What helps you trust God when you don’t know what the future holds?
* Discuss what you have discovered about trusting God despite uncertainty, and how to continue to trust God.

**Reflecting Jesus**

* How does Jesus’ determination, obedience, and willingness to face the cross despite knowing the cost, challenge you to remain faithful in your own discipleship?
* Reflect on practical ways you can demonstrate courage, obedience, and love for God in your workplace, home, or community. How can the story of Palm Sunday guide your actions this week?