



build. plant. grow.
the word this week

Cycle C

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary #117

Reading I: Wisdom 18: 6-9

The writer of this section of the book of Wisdom reminds the nation of Israel that they are to be **courageous**. This is done by drawing the people back to the memory of the great event of their exodus from Egypt. The event of the Passover is the reference point for the nation of Israel and they are reminded of the great **courage** that their ancestors displayed in trusting God to free them from their slavery. Similarly, in the Christian tradition, we look at the event of the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus as our great reference point. The early Christians and Christians throughout time have exhibited great **courage** and trust in Jesus.



ordinary
time



Reading 2: Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews reminds the reader that **courage** is a necessary element to living a life of faith. This is done by telling of the great **courage** of Abraham in making the sojourn to a place unknown to him. His absolute trust in God enabled the beginning of a new nation and people. God extends to us every great gift, however we are called to be **courageous** and trust in God's providence. Again, faith is something that entails courage.

Gospel: Luke 12: 32-48

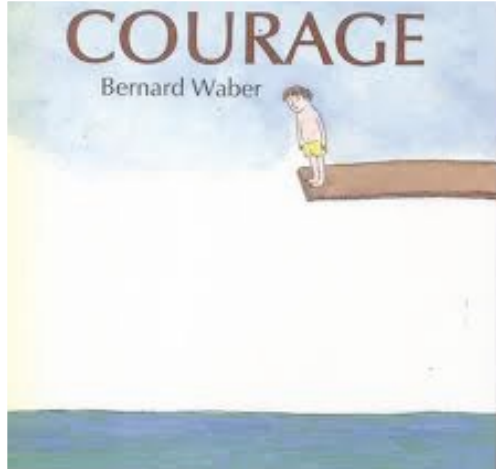
Jesus, in today's gospel as well as in many of the gospel passages, speaks of the uselessness of fear when we trust that we have a loving God. Jesus speaks of the fact that the kingdom of God is ours and that must be our most valued possession, so much so that Jesus goes as far to say, get rid of everything because none of it will bring you true happiness or the fullness of life. In other words, seeking God's kingdom, which is available to us, will bring us the fulfillment that each person is searching for in life. Faith calls us to be **courageous** in making a leap of faith.



lectionary
reading



children's
story



Courage

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Illustrated by Bernard Waber

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character
education
activity

**Courage is the mental or
moral strength to venture,
persevere, and withstand
danger, fear, difficulty, or
uncertainty.**

Courage

This collection of stories speaks to a variety of life situations that involve being **courageous**. Certainly it takes **courage** for a firefighter to rescue someone trapped in a burning building, but there are many other types of courage too. The stories throughout illustrate the everyday kinds of **courage** that normally occur in life by ordinary people. Some of the stories show the kind of **courage** that occurs by being the first to make up after an argument, or going to bed without a nightlight. The stories explore the many and varied kinds of **courage** and celebrates the moments, big and small, that bring out the hero in ordinary people.

After hearing some of these stories recall an event in your own life that called you to be **courageous**. It can, as the stories illustrate, be a big moment or a small moment. Write out the story and if you like draw picture to accompany the story.

In all of the readings today there are events and people that help us remember what it means to be **courageous**. What comes through clearly in all of the stories about courage is that we must trust in God and in ourselves and our own goodness. Trust is an essential element to being people of **courage**.

Defining Courage

Step One: Prior to reading one of the stories about courage, ask the students to brainstorm what words or phrases they would use to define courage.

Step Two: Using the words that the students listed build a definition of courage that would be the “class definition” of courage. Make a large poster and make a colorful banner of the class’ definition of courage. You might use all the words listed to make the frame around the definition and then place the banner in a place where it can readily be seen. Ask students to look at it when they are feeling uneasy about something just as a reminder.

Courage is often referred to as HEART. The heart is where love and faith reside so they must have much to do with courage.



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

Choose one thing that consistently makes you uneasy and talk with someone you trust, such as a parent or another adult, about what the fear is. Ask them what they think would be a good way to reduce your specific fear. Being courageous means moving forward step by step to face our fears. Often times, we fear the unknown or that which is very different from us. Take some time and identify the fear you want to address and think and talk about ways that you might take steps to overcome the fear.

Look Feel Know Act

There are different ways that courage makes itself known in your life but at the basis of all courage is trust in God and in yourself. In the wisdom reading recalling the account of Israel being freed from slavery in Egypt, the people had to first trust in God and that God was speaking through Moses. Then they had to make some movement or action that proclaimed that trust.

In the story that is recalled by the writer of the Hebrews regarding Abraham, we see another story of courage. Abraham had to place his trust completely in God when asked to go to an unknown place and begin a new life. Without this trust and courage the beginning of something new becomes stifled.

Jesus will proclaim time and again that “fear is useless and what is needed is trust.” We know that when we are afraid the fear can stop us from moving forward or doing anything new or different. All we have to do is think about the pioneers of this country or individuals who left their home countries to seek a new life. Certainly there must have been some fear, but trust and hope for something better overwhelmed the fear and gave them courage to move forward. We might think about our faith life as an adventure that involves many things such as trust, hope, and courage as some of the building block of building a faith life.

In *Courage* there are many great stories that can help each reader to identify with the fact that courage makes itself known in many ways. It can propel the student to reflect on a situation when they were able to overcome a fear and also give them hope to overcome a fear that they have yet to face.

The stories and characters in *Courage*, as well as those recalled in the today's readings can serve as examples of how trust is at the basis of being **courageous**.



**closing
tool**

Pray that God will strengthen your faith so that you will trust God in all things and allow yourself to be courageous in your journey through life as you travel life's great adventures with God. Amen



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