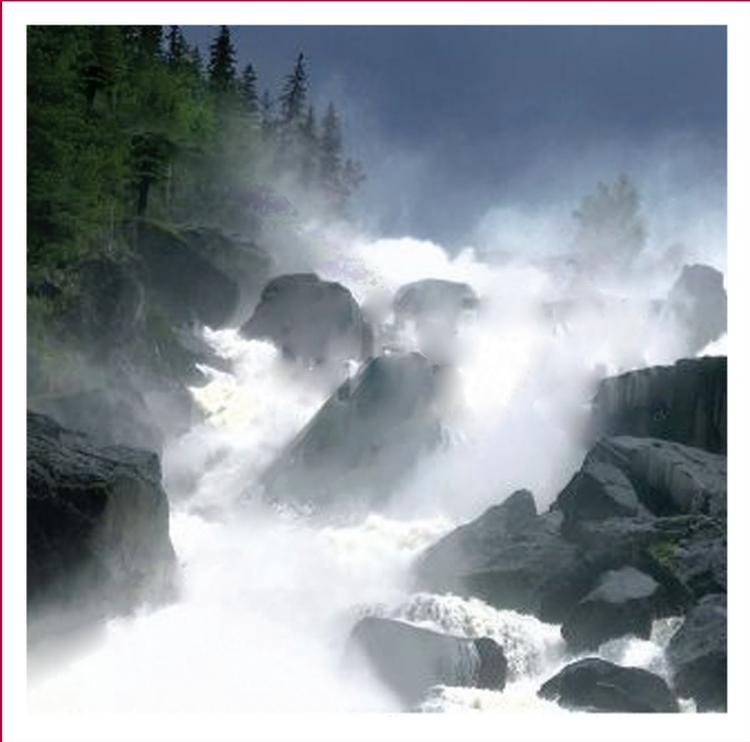


MIGHTY MEN OF VALOR: BOOK 2

Courage

PRIORITIES FOR KINGDOM LIVING



Dean Ridings | Bob Jones | Scott Ballenger

MIGHTY MEN OF VALOR: BOOK 2

Courage

PRIORITIES FOR KINGDOM LIVING

MIGHTY MEN OF VALOR: BOOK 2

Courage

PRIORITIES FOR KINGDOM LIVING

Dean Ridings | Bob Jones | Scott Ballenger

Make a Mark
MINISTRIES

6660 Delmonico Drive, Suite D-140 • Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919

E-mail info@makeamark.net • Web www.makeamark.net
www.facebook.com/makeamarkministries

Mighty Men of Valor: Book 2

Courage

PRIORITIES FOR KINGDOM LIVING

Mighty Man of Valor's Name

Name and Contact Information of Warrior Brother(s)

Date Started

Date Completed

*Iron sharpens iron,
and one man sharpens another.*

Proverbs 27:17

Mighty Men of Valor: Book 2 – Courage

A Make a Mark Ministries Bible Study

Copyright © 2013, 2021 by Dean Ridings, Bob Jones, Scott Ballenger

This is the second in the series of Priorities for Kingdom Living, which includes:

Mighty Men of Valor: Book 1 – Strength

Mighty Men of Valor: Book 3 – Passion

Design: Steve Learned

Cover Photo: [@bigstockphoto.com/dangur](https://www.bigstockphoto.com/dangur)

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Contents

INTRODUCTION	9
USING THIS STUDY	11
Priority 1 – Worship	13
Exalting God Alone	
Priority 2 – Honor	17
Fully Following God	
Priority 3 – Holiness	21
Set Apart for God	
Priority 4 – Confession	25
Renewing the Heart	
Priority 5 – Humility	29
Putting Others First	
Priority 6 – Honesty	33
Keeping It Real	
Priority 7 – Self-Control	37
Remaining Level-Headed	
Priority 8 – Surrender	41
Denying Oneself	
Priority 9 – Love	45
Caring Like Jesus	
Priority 10 – Victory	49
Living Triumphantly	
GOING FORWARD	53
ABOUT THE AUTHORS	57

Introduction

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9). With this charge, God sent Joshua, as head of the nation of Israel, to conquer the Promised Land.

In *Strength*, the first Bible study of the Mighty Men of Valor series, we invited you to learn how to be strong in the Lord. We would now like you to join us in a journey toward becoming a courageous warrior for God.

Why courageous? Since our forefather Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, the world in which we live is no longer as God created it. Evil exists. People do not like God, nor do they always tolerate Jesus’ followers, the body of Christ. Persecution happens. The old sin nature within us causes us to feel inadequate for the responsibilities God has given us as men, and we fear failure. Mighty Men of Valor need great courage.

God is building His kingdom, and He is calling us to be courageous warriors for Him. We need courage to love our wives as Christ loved the church, and to teach our kids by example and words how to follow Christ. It takes courage to be honest and to work hard on the job.

Telling others about the Gospel of Jesus and His kingdom calls for men to overcome our fear and speak the truth. A man of courage will speak honestly with Christian brothers about his shortcomings and overcome embarrassment to meet with other men to help each other grow.

The Mighty Men of Valor we see in Scripture and walking among us today have three distinct characteristics: They are men of *strength, courage, and passion*. In this second study in the series—

as we did with strength in the first and will do with passion in the third—here we unpack what it means to have courage in Christ.

While imprisoned in Rome, the apostle Paul expressed his expectation and hope “that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death” (Philippians 1:20). This is our prayer for all who go through this study, that they will more and more be Mighty Men of Valor who passionately live for good and for God in this generation—building others who will passionately live for Jesus in the next!

Using this Study

As with the additional Bible studies in this series, *Mighty Men of Valor: Book 2 – Courage* can be used in three essential ways.

First, you can use it as a daily devotional. We strongly encourage every man to take time out for a daily meeting—or *appointment*—with God. Make it a time of talking to God, looking into His Word, and asking Him to help you apply it to your life today.

Notice how Jesus, our example for life and ministry, made this a priority in His life. “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed” (Mark 1:35).

A second way you can use this study is to connect with other men—in the spirit of Hebrews 10:24-25—to stir up one another toward becoming Mighty Men of Valor. You may think of this as walking “Side-by-Side,” meeting weekly for mutual growth, mutual support, and mutual accountability.

More than merely going through the Bible study together, it’s all about helping one another “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (see Jude 3) in the midst of 21st century reality.

“Warrior Brothers” may be traditional mentoring or discipleship relationships between “mature” and their protégé “young” disciples, such as Elijah and Elisha or Paul and Timothy. Or they may be mutual discipleship or peer co-mentoring relationships between any two believers—no matter where they are in their faith—such as David and Jonathan or Paul and Barnabas. Proverbs 27:17 puts it this way: “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”

Finally, a third way to use this study is in a triad or small-group setting. Think of Jesus, once again. He focused on a small

group of men (see Luke 6:13-16). He built into their lives, strategically moving them along the discipleship journey. Yes, at times He fed thousands with physical and spiritual food; mainly, though, He invested in the Twelve.

If you're a man looking to make a key investment in other men, consider starting a small group. You might pray to have such an influence on a dozen lives. If you meet or exceed that goal, consider asking God ultimately to use you to invest in the lives of 300 men—like the small band that formed Gideon's army!

However you use this tool, remember that you are not alone. Along the way Jesus will both *guide* and *grow* you toward greater godliness (see Romans 8:28-29; Philippians 1:6; 2 Corinthians 3:18). Indeed, the Lord is with you, Mighty Man of Valor!

Worship

Exalting God Alone

*“When this age is over, and the countless millions
of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God,
missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity.
But worship abides forever.”*

—John Piper

Read & Reflect

Read and reflect on 2 Chronicles 35:1-19. Consider the following question: *How should a man respond to the greatness of God?*

The Challenge

Josiah, descendent of David and king of Judah, was filled with both joy and sorrow. He was filled with joy because the Book of the Law (likely Deuteronomy) had been found, having been lost for many generations of kings, and the word of the Lord could be heard again. Yet he was filled with sorrow because the Book of the Law revealed just how much God’s people had neglected their Lord.

Overcome with grief, King Josiah wept and repented before God. When he was assured by God of being forgiven, the king called for a gathering of all Jerusalem to hear the Law and organized a great Passover celebration. He later abolished idolatry in

the land and “made all who were present in Israel serve the Lord their God. All his days they did not turn away from following the Lord, the God of their fathers” (2 Chronicles 34:33).

Josiah responded in the only honest way a man can in the presence of Almighty God: He worshiped with all his heart. He humbled himself before the Lord and set the Lord in the highest place in his life. He also led the nation to worship the one true God. Shouldering his responsibility as the spiritual shepherd of the nation, Josiah reinstated the worship of Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

As an Israelite, Josiah’s worship was dominated by the sacrifices of bulls, goats, and sheep as the Passover was prepared. On this day, they celebrated God’s deliverance of Israel from Egypt, some 700 years earlier. The people ate, prayed, and worshiped together, all in honor of God, their Deliverer. Because of Josiah, God postponed His judgment of Judah and blessed the nation. He can do the same for us.

Living It Out

Of course, Billy Graham wasn’t always the world-renowned author, preacher, and evangelist who in his life talked to more people about Jesus in person than anyone else in history. In 1934, he was a lanky, teenaged Charlotte, North Carolina, farm boy. That’s when Billy heard evangelist Mordecai Ham, sat through four stanzas of “Just As I Am,” then stood to his feet and walked to the front of the 5,000-seat tabernacle along with several hundred others to commit his life to Christ.

In his autobiography *Just As I Am*, Billy shared how God developed in him a heart of worship, which happened gradually. “There were signs, though, that my thinking and direction had changed, that I had truly been converted,” he said. “To my own surprise, church activities that had bored me before seemed interesting all of the sudden. . . . The choir sounded better to me.

I actually wanted to go to church as often as possible.

“The Bible, which had been familiar to me almost since infancy, drew me now to find out what it said besides the verses I had memorized through the years. I enjoyed the few minutes I could take when I was by myself each morning and evening for quiet talking to God in prayer. . . . I was even singing hymns while I milked the cows!”

Billy had ruled out preacher, along with undertaker, as a profession, yet God had other plans. In 1943, he entered full-time ministry and not long after began conducting evangelistic crusades. Through the years his heart of worship had been reflected in his signature phrase, “The Bible says,” and God used him to lead countless people to make the ultimate act of worship, coming forward to give their lives to Christ.



➔ Who do you know that truly has a heart of worship? What really stands out about him or her?

➔ What role does worship play in your daily routine?

➔ Since worship is honoring God for who He is, what He's done and is doing, and what He's promised to do, how might you pause to worship Him even now?

Takeaway Truth

God is worthy of our worship. We know how to worship and are good at it. We worship what we think is worthwhile—money, careers, sex, cars, sports, fitness, electronics, nature, and the list goes on. All kinds of idols, what's your pleasure? As our creator, redeemer, and sustainer, God alone is truly worthy of our worship, and you were made for this purpose. Now go and live today, despite what anyone might say, courageously worshiping and glorifying God, living life as a redeemed man who is fully alive!

Valor Prayer

GRACIOUS GOD, hear my voice, Lord, as I pray in light of Psalm 100: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

For Further Investigation

➔ 2 Samuel 6:17-22

➔ Psalm 150

➔ Luke 10:38-42

PRIORITY 2

Honor

Fully Following God

“I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true.

*I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound
to live up to what light I have.”*

—Abraham Lincoln

Read & Reflect

Read and reflect on Ezekiel 24:15-27. Consider the following question: *How far are you willing to obey—and in so doing, honor—the Lord?*

The Challenge

Ezekiel could hardly believe his ears. Little did he know when God called him to be a prophet that there would be such a high cost. His was not merely a speaking ministry, but he himself was a living lesson to the people of Israel. Already God had made him lie on his side for days, tied down so he could not roll over, eating only meager meals as an example of what Jerusalem would be like during the siege by Babylon (see Ezekiel 4:1-17). On another occasion God commanded the prophet to dress as an exile and dig a hole through a wall as a picture of Israel’s attempt to escape the armies of the Chaldeans (see Ezekiel 12:1-7). But this last lesson,

who could bear it!

“ ‘Son of man, behold, I am about to take the delight of your eyes away from you at a stroke; yet you shall not mourn or weep, nor shall your tears run down. Sigh, but not aloud; make no mourning for the dead. Bind on your turban, and put your shoes on your feet; do not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men.’ So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening my wife died. And on the next morning I did as I was commanded” (Ezekiel 24:16-18).

God called Ezekiel to be an object lesson of His judgment on the sinful nation. It’s likely the text captures only a fraction of the anguish Ezekiel must have felt. How could any red-blooded man give up his wife for a rebellious, disobedient people who would not listen anyway? Yet Ezekiel chose to obey. The prophet became an object lesson to us of the sobering words of Jesus: “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23). Ezekiel honored God, who used him to call a nation back to the Lord. He will do the same for us.

Living It Out

William Wilberforce was born in Northern England in 1759. Though he was a small, sickly child with poor eyesight, he soon learned that such barriers as these were easily overcome by his wit and friendly nature. As he grew older, Wilberforce had a brush with Christianity, but only a brush. His attention turned instead to a more hedonistic lifestyle of cards, gambling, and drinking, especially after an inheritance left him independently wealthy.

He was still in college when he became interested in politics, and at age 21 he was elected to Parliament. During those days he returned to Bible reading and prayer, and that led to quite a dramatic turnaround in his life. It all hinged on obedience, a life lived with a wholehearted passion to honor God with his all, right where the Lord had placed him.

The Bible opened his eyes not only to living before God as a man of honor but being led by God to treat others with dignity and honor. This, he knew, included slaves, who were created in God's image and should be treated as such. This barrier, however, would not be so easily overcome. In fact, Wilberforce spent the rest of his life fighting to end the slave trade. He died three days after hearing that the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 had passed and abolished slavery in most of Britain.



➔ What does it look like to be a man of honor in today's world?

➔ How important is it for the man who longs to be used of God to be a person of honor, a modern-day Ezekiel or Wilberforce?

➔ Take a 360-degree look at your life. Where are you hitting the mark in terms of living as a man of honor? How can you translate that to each area of your life?

Takeaway Truth

God's ways are honorable and we have the high calling of both walking in His ways and reflecting Him to a watching world. In fact, people often form their opinions about God based on what they see in His children, which affords you an incredible opportunity to show God to them. Now go today with the courage to live honorably before God, seeking to become more like Christ and being a beacon of hope in a world that desperately needs a Savior!

Valor Prayer

OUR SOVEREIGN KING, I am a weak and willful man. But You have called me to live honorably as I fully follow You. Help me by the power of the Holy Spirit to faithfully carry out Your call on my life. Give me strength to deny myself, take up my cross daily, and follow You. Give me the courage to say with Paul, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). Show me Your path for my life, so I may walk with You.

For Further Investigation

- ➔ 1 Samuel 2:30
- ➔ Romans 13:1-10
- ➔ 2 Timothy 2:19-21

Holiness

Set Apart for God

*“To seek God’s glory is to pray,
‘Thicken the air with your presence; make it misty with
your majesty. Part heaven’s drapes, and let your nature spill forth.
God, show us God.’”*
—Max Lucado

Read & Reflect

Read and reflect on Revelation 1:10-18. Consider the following question: *Why would a man who walked with Jesus for three years suddenly fall on his face upon meeting Him on His home turf?*

The Challenge

Consider John the apostle. He was one of the twelve men who lived and worked with Jesus while He was on earth. In fact, John was one of the three apostles closest to Jesus. He was the “disciple whom Jesus loved.” Jesus even entrusted His own mother, Mary, to John’s care as He was being crucified. Now, after faithfully following Christ for more than fifty years, here is John, coming face to face with his glorified Savior, falling on his face in fear. What is the difference?

Look at the scene in Revelation 1. “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day,” John says (v. 10), meaning that he is experiencing a

vision of Jesus in His holiness and glory. As John sees Jesus in His heavenly majesty, he realizes that this is not the carpenter with whom he walked the dusty roads of Palestine. This is the holy Lion of Judah, coming to judge the seven churches of Asia Minor—and John is terrified!

Like Isaiah and Daniel before him, John recognizes that a sinful man naturally falls to his face before the pure holiness of God. In the presence of absolute perfection and unblemished holiness, even the aged apostle is devastated by his own unworthiness. Yet what does the holy Christ do? The same thing He does for us. He reaches down in His mercy and grace and gives John His comfort and courage. He commissions John to be His witness to the seven churches—and to us.

Living It Out

He wrote the classic book *The Holiness of God*, but how did R. C. Sproul gain a passion for God's holiness? It all began one winter day when R. C. was in a philosophy class he thought was a waste of time. The professor lectured on Saint Augustine's views of the creation of the world, and R. C. couldn't get out of his mind how something came from nothing, "In the beginning."

Later, just before midnight as R. C. was on the verge of sleep, he received what he calls a summons: "Get up. Get out of this room." So he got up, walked outside in the cold night, and made his way through the quiet campus to the empty chapel. When he arrived at the chancel, R. C. sank to his knees as if to pray—but no words came. "An icy chill started at the base of my spine and crept up my neck. Fear swept over me," he recalled. "I fought the impulse to run from the foreboding presence that gripped me.

"The terror passed, but soon it was followed by another wave," he remembered. "This wave was different. It was a flooding of my soul of unspeakable peace, a peace that brought instant rest and repose to my troubled spirit. At once I was comfortable. I wanted

to linger there. To say nothing. To do nothing. Simply to bask in the presence of God.” R. C. called the moment life transforming, alone in the presence of a holy God, at the start of what he knew would be a lifelong quest to know and worship holy God.



➔ How would you describe God’s holiness?

➔ Tell of a time when you have had that stark realization you’re in the presence of holy God. How did you respond?

➔ How will you acknowledge God’s holiness in your own life beginning today?

Takeaway Truth

God is holy. God is “other” than us; He is perfect in every way. Don’t limit your understanding of God to your experiences here on earth. One day we will begin to understand His holiness as we

worship Him in heaven. Until then, we cling to the promises of our holy God to make us more like His holy Son, Jesus. Now go today with the courage to boldly approach His throne of grace in worship—seeking a glimpse of His holiness in His Word, through your relationship with Christ, and by the Holy Spirit that dwells within you!

Valor Prayer

HOLY FATHER, thank You that You long for us to know You, to stand in the midst of Your holy presence. I'm grateful that even though You know me very intimately You beckon me in, all because Your Son, Jesus, has led me to You. Thank You that I am loved, not condemned, and more than welcome here.

For Further Investigation

- ➔ Hebrews 12:14-29
- ➔ 1 Peter 1:13-21
- ➔ Exodus 15:1-18

Confession

Renewing the Heart

“To confess your sins to God is not to tell [God] anything [God] doesn’t already know. Until you confess them, however, they are the abyss between you. When you confess them, they become the bridge.”

—Frederick Buechner

Read & Reflect

Read and reflect on Nehemiah 1:5-11. Consider the following question: *How does a sinful man respond to a holy God?*

The Challenge

Nehemiah presents us with a striking example of a man who knows his place before God. Here’s a man’s man. He was cup-bearer to the king of Persia, the mightiest nation on earth. He motivated a discouraged and defeated city to accomplish an unprecedented engineering feat. He stared his enemies in the eye and they backed down. He governed an unruly people with fairness, mercy, and an unfailing commitment to follow God. He was a goal-oriented, mission-driven man who took no nonsense from anyone and would not be deterred from his path. If alive today, he could be the CEO of a major corporation, and he would do it honestly! But even this high-powered, highly accomplished man

had to confront his sin before holy God.

Living in exile from his beloved Judah, Nehemiah hungered for news of his homeland. When his brother came to visit from Jerusalem with news of devastation and discouragement, Nehemiah was filled with sorrow. He mourned for his cherished city and his people. But he also recognized that the Jews were suffering under God's just wrath for their refusal to worship and follow God alone.

So Nehemiah humbled himself before God and confessed his sins, as well as those of the nation. He admitted that he and the Jews had violated God's commandments. He acknowledged that they deserved the judgment that God had given them. No whining. No excuses. No soft soap. He wept and mourned for days because he knew that they were guilty before God. But he also knew something else, God is merciful. God had chosen the Jews and promised to redeem them from their captivity and restore them to their land. Just like God does with us today.

Living It Out

Chuck Colson served President Richard Nixon in the early 1970s. "B.C.," before Chuck met Christ, he had a cruel reputation as the president's "hatchet man." It was said that he would run over his own grandmother if Nixon asked. You may recall that Chuck was caught up in the conspiracy known as Watergate, which taught the nation no person is above the law. What you may not know is that Chuck volunteered all the information that led to his conviction; he could have "taken the fifth," simply said "I don't recall," or otherwise talked his way around the truth. As a believer, he opted for a full confession—and went to prison on a Watergate-related offense.

When he got out of prison, he kept his promise not to forget those he met there by starting Prison Fellowship, a ministry to prisoners, ex-prisoners, their families, and crime victims. Because

of his theological writings, some called Chuck a modern-day prophet as he challenged the Church to biblical obedience—like being honest to God about our failings.

Chuck's conviction stripped him of the right to vote, sit on a jury, run for office, and practice law. In late 2000, the Florida governor issued an executive order restoring his civil rights. Legally speaking, Colson became clean. That is exactly what happened in the spiritual realm when he made a complete confession to Jesus as he gave his life to Him 25 years earlier.



➔ Respond to the statement: “We are only as sick as our secrets.”

➔ How have you experienced the truth of the saying, “Confession is good for the soul”?

➔ Time for a heart check: What do you need to confess to the Lord right now?

Takeaway Truth

God is absolutely sinless, purely righteous. If we're honest, we'll admit that we're not. We have chosen to go our own way—the Bible calls this “sin.” In His justice and mercy, He offers to satisfy the sentence for our sins with payment from Jesus' death. Regular confession is a continual acknowledgement of our position with God and His ability to forgive us. Now go and live today with the courage to confess your sins to the holy God who created you, making sure there are no barriers between you and Him, relying on the Holy Spirit's enabling to “go, and from now on sin no more” (John 8:11)!

Valor Prayer

GRACIOUS FATHER, You are holy and righteous and good. But I admit that I am a sinful man who deserves Your just judgment. Like Nehemiah and Chuck Colson, I have done things unworthy of You. Yet in Your great mercy, Jesus Christ died for me, and I am now forgiven through Him. Thank You for forgiving me and making me clean before You. Would You help me to say “no” to sin and “yes” to godliness? I believe You can do it!

For Further Investigation

- Joshua 7:19-20
- 1 John 1:9
- James 5:16

Humility

Putting Others First

“Humility has to do with submitted willingness. It involves healthy self-forgetfulness. We will know we have begun to make progress in humility when we find that we get so enabled by the Holy Spirit to live in the moment that we cease to be preoccupied with ourselves, one way or the other.”

—John Ortberg

Read & Reflect

Read and reflect on Numbers 12:1-15. Consider the following question: *What happened when his own brother and sister challenged the leadership of the most humble man on the face of the earth?*

The Challenge

Moses was God’s chosen leader of the Israelites. After forty years of herding sheep in the backcountry of nowhere, Moses heard God’s summons to return to Egypt and miraculously brought the people out of captivity. God demonstrated that Moses held a special place in His plan by speaking with him face to face.

But were the people grateful? Not at all; they grumbled and complained against Moses at every turn. Throughout this time, Aaron and Miriam, Moses’ brother and sister, had supported him

and worked with him to accomplish God's purposes. But now, moved by jealousy, even Miriam and Aaron came against Moses. They challenge his authority as leader of the nation. They question his right to be the sole spokesman for God. Stabbed in the back by his own family, how does Moses respond?

Moses, the man God used to accomplish great miracles, the man God empowered to part the Red Sea, made no personal response at all. He left the matter entirely in the hands of God. No defensive denials from Moses. No angry replies to their accusations. No lawyers bringing charges or demands for compensation for their slanderous words.

Instead, here's a man who knew that God would take care of him, who, when he was reviled, did not revile in return but continued entrusting himself to Him who judges justly. In fact, when God judged Miriam by giving her leprosy, Moses pleaded with God to heal her and restore her to full health. We see the most humble man on the face of the earth. And what did God do? He vindicated Moses. He exalted Moses and put his brother and sister in their place. He will do that for you today.

Living It Out

It's more likely you've heard of the first president of The Navigators than the second one, Lorne Sanny. It's not that Dawson Trotman was such a public figure, it's just that Lorne was such a humble man he rarely drew the public's attention. He just quietly led The Navigators' international ministry for three decades—and accomplished much along the way.

During Lorne's tenure, The Navigators grew from a staff of 171 in fewer than a dozen countries to 2,580 in 71 countries. After stepping down as president and general director in 1986, he remained active in Christian ministry by serving as a resource to the Navigator staff worldwide, a mentor to Christian businessmen, and an active participant in his local church.

Among his many accomplishments is the development of follow-up for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association—discipleship material still in use today. The Christian Management Association named him Christian Manager of the Year in 1987. Not long before his death in 2005, Lorne was awarded Discipuler of the Year by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Yet Lorne’s life is a testimony to the saying that one man can accomplish much for eternity if it doesn’t matter who gets the credit.



➔ Moses was the most humble man of his day. Who’s the most humble person you know? How is his or her humility evident?

➔ How do you respond when falsely accused? How would you like to respond?

➔ Where might you put into practice what you’ve learned about humility today?

Takeaway Truth

God is in control. Sometimes we can feel pretty self-important, however, even to the point of believing “He can’t do it without us.” Let’s not think more highly of ourselves and our contributions than we ought. God wants us to humbly look to Him for direction and ability to make a difference in this world. Will you humbly submit to the Lord to be used whenever and however He desires? Now go today with the courage to live as a man who yields to God and in so doing makes a mark for the Gospel and generations!

Valor Prayer

GOD ALMIGHTY, I am a proud man, and I confess it to You. My heart’s desire is to humble myself before You, and I know I can only do this in Your strength. Would You enable me to do so? Would You give me the strength and courage to live like Jesus, who “humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8)? Help me to be humbly obedient to You. Show me how to follow You, and thank You for Your grace.

For Further Investigation

- ➔ James 4:10
- ➔ 1 Peter 5:6
- ➔ Philippians 2:1-11

Honesty

Keeping It Real

“I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.”

—George Washington

Read & Reflect

Read and reflect on 1 Kings 22:7-28. Consider the following question: *Where does a man go for truth in a world of lies?*

The Challenge

Jehoshaphat was a man looking for truth, but he was surrounded by men willing to say what they thought he wanted to hear. Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, had agreed to aid King Ahab of Israel in his war with Syria. Before going out to battle, however, Jehoshaphat wanted to hear from God what should be done. Ahab's four hundred prophets of Baal delivered a message designed to flatter the king and make him feel good about himself. They valued favor from Ahab more than they valued the truth. They valued their own lives more than a true word from the Lord.

But Jehoshaphat wisely recognized that feeling good is a weak substitute for knowing the truth. When his life was on the line, he would rather know the truth than be flattered by self-serving

counselors. Where could Jehoshaphat turn for truth? Who was willing to endure the wrath of Ahab and speak a genuine message from the Lord?

Jehoshaphat asked Ahab if there was a true prophet of the Lord among them. Jehoshaphat knew that to find the truth, he must hear from the one true God, not false gods or people with their own agendas. The best advice of false prophets could only be false. Only the word of the Lord was true. Ahab, with all the grace of a two year old, reluctantly admitted that there was indeed a prophet of the Lord, Micaiah by name. They summoned Micaiah, and he did speak from God and the truth . . . and got thrown into prison on bread and water for it. But Jehoshaphat found what he was looking for: the truth. He found it in the Word of God. That's where we find the truth today.

Living It Out

When Matt Heard was a young man and a relatively new Christian, he went on a mission trip to Mexico followed by a work project in New Orleans on the way home. He and another youth shared the guest room at the home of a local church member. Today, the pastor and gifted storyteller shares a self-effacing story of the time the Lord brought home the importance of honesty before God and people.

“I knelt beside my bed to ‘do my prayers,’ ” he says. “I started praying, but not long after, I dozed off for a second. My roommate tapped me on the shoulder and said, ‘Matt, why don’t you just go ahead and get in bed?’ I thought, *Who does he think I am? He thinks I’m actually sleeping while I’m doing such an important religious duty?*”

Matt told his friend that he had a few additional items he wanted to talk to God about. “What I didn’t know was that it was 3:30 in the morning and I had been in that praying position for four to five hours,” he says. “The cat was out of the bag. He knew

that I'd been pretending there, I just didn't know I'd been caught.

“When we begin to come face to face with the greatness of Jesus, prayer moves from a religious duty to a cry of the heart—and sometimes the prayer is simply a word, ‘Help.’ ”



➔ Why is it important to surround yourself with people who will shoot straight with you?

➔ Do you feel you can be honest with the people in your life? Why or why not?

➔ When you've taken God at His word, what's been the result?

Takeaway Truth

God's truth is enough. In a “never let 'em see you sweat” world, it's tempting to try to appear “perfect,” as if we've “arrived.” But who among us really has it all together? The more honest and authen-

tic we are, the more of a witness we express about the power of God to transform lives. The church needs men of integrity who reveal the truth that God isn't finished with them yet. Now go today with the courage to be honest to God and others as a testimony to His sanctifying work in your life!

Valor Prayer

LORD JESUS, You said that You are the Way, and the Truth and the Life (John 14:6). To honor You, I want to be a man of truth. I give up deception, lies, and falsehood of any kind. I commit myself to tell the truth, even at my own expense. Help me to fulfill this desire.

For Further Investigation

- ➔ 2 Kings 12:15
- ➔ Acts 5:1-11
- ➔ Ephesians 4:17-32

Self-Control

Remaining Level-Headed

*“Self-control is the exercise of inner strength
under the direction of sound judgment that enables us
to do, think, and say the things that
are pleasing to God.”*

—Jerry Bridges

Read & Reflect

Read and reflect on Acts 7:51-60. Consider the following question: *How can a man keep his cool when being attacked by “idiots”?*

The Challenge

Stephen was in the most dangerous position of his life. Standing before the Jewish high court, falsely accused of blasphemy, Stephen’s life was about to be cut short by the cruel act of stoning. You see, the angry Jewish leaders were frustrated with failing to crush this “Christian” uprising led by Jesus of Nazareth. All of their pent up anger erupted in irrational charges and blind hatred of this accursed follower of Christ. They even hired men to deliver false testimony against him. So how did Stephen respond? Did he angrily deny the charges? Did he cower in fear and renounce his faith? Did he lash back at his accusers?

No, Stephen calmly appeared before the council with a coun-

tenance “like the face of an angel” (Acts 6:15). He was at peace, resting in the grace of God. With great patience, he delivered a reasoned defense of his beliefs, but to no avail. Even as he was being stoned, with his last breath, he asked God to forgive his killers. How does a man maintain such coolness before irrational hatred?

Earlier in the text Stephen was seen as a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. He had entrusted his life to Jesus Christ, and no matter what happened to him, he knew that God was in control. He had submitted himself completely to Christ, and the Lord could do with him whatever He wished. God gave Stephen the grace under fire seen in this story. He can give it to us today.

Living It Out

Dave Dravecky is known for his all-star pitching for the San Francisco Giants, cancer that threatened his career, his comeback, cancer’s comeback that took his arm, and now mostly his Outreach of Hope Ministries and inspirational speaking. But he never wanted to be known for his struggle with anger.

It had reached its zenith about the time Dave had reached his zenith in professional ball. He was keeping on top of his game and let his wife, Jan, know that she would do well to keep on top of hers in the home. Then came the day when she didn’t hang up her towel after a shower. Dave went into such a tirade that by the time he was finished the towels, clothes from the closet, even the mattress from the nicely made bed were strewn across the floor. After the armoire came crashing to the floor, he caught sight of his children in Jan’s lap with tears and fear in their eyes.

In the years since, God has done a huge amount of work on Dave’s heart and in his life. He’s grateful that God continues to help him get his anger under control, though he says he still has to watch out that it doesn’t build to the blow-up point.

“On a practical level, that means I have to learn what contrib-

utes to the buildup of my anger and then learn to defuse it,” he says. “It means admitting that outbursts of anger are sin—to be confessed, repented of, and not excused or tolerated.”



➔ If you were in Stephen’s sandals, how would you have responded?

➔ Have you ever had an outburst like Dave’s? If so, what was the result?

➔ Lack of self-control—anger—plagues so many Christian men. What’s your plan to ensure that your anger doesn’t result in a blow-up?

Takeaway Truth

God’s plans are perfect—and He is in the perfecting business (see Philippians 1:6). As God shapes and molds you into the image of Christ (see Romans 8:29), there will be bumps along the

road. Be patient with yourself as you encounter behaviors that need to change in your life. God is not finished with you yet. He loves you just the way you are, and He loves you too much to keep you that way. Now go today with the courage to live with Spirit-led discipline (Galatians 5:22-23), submitting to God's perfect plan in your life, showing the world what God can do with a man like you!

Valor Prayer

GRACIOUS LORD, You are in control of my life, and I give up my right to have things go my way. Help me to recognize what causes me to lose control, and to submit that to the control of the Holy Spirit. I acknowledge that my outbursts of anger and other such behavior are acts of sin, and I ask for Your strength and self-control.

For Further Investigation

- ➔ 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- ➔ Titus 2:11-13
- ➔ 2 Peter 1:5-7

Surrender

Denying Oneself

“The obsession to demand that things go the way we want them to go is one of the greatest bondages in human society today.”

—Richard Foster

Read & Reflect

Read and reflect on Daniel 3:1-30. Consider the following question: *How does a man respond when the going gets tough?*

The Challenge

In the year 606 B.C. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were among the cream of the crop of Jewish young men in Jerusalem. Loyal followers of the one true God, they also were “youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning” (see Daniel 1:4). The future looked bright for the three youths, until the worst happened. King Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem, took them captive, and carried them off to exile in Babylon. There he changed their names to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and added them to his own cadre of counselors.

In his pride, Nebuchadnezzar built a huge statue of himself and ordered everyone to worship it or be thrown into a furnace

and burned alive. Captive in a foreign land, having lost their identities as Jews and faced with a life or death choice, how did the three young men respond?

They said, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up” (Daniel 3:16-18, NLT). They respectfully refused the king’s order.

You see, these three youths had surrendered their lives to God, and they were His no matter what the cost. They trusted Him, knowing that He was able to deliver them, but aware that His will might include their agonizing death. No matter which outcome God chose for them, they would not compromise His name. When following God got tough, they followed Him anyway. And God not only saved them, but Nebuchadnezzar elevated Yahweh to supreme status in his kingdom. God can do the same today for His people who will not compromise.

Living It Out

Jim Elliot was born in Portland, Oregon, and raised in a Christian home. He trusted Jesus at age six and reflected total surrender to his Savior from his earliest days. At Benson Polytechnic High School he shared his faith, defended his beliefs, and stood by his convictions.

Upon entering Wheaton, a private Christian college in the Chicago suburbs, Jim had three goals: grow spiritually, develop discipline, and prepare for missions. When he graduated in 1949 and before attending Camp Wycliffe for further missionary training, his journal entry reflected his zeal for missions no matter the cost: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”

In early 1952, Jim arrived in Ecuador to share the Good News with the Quechua Indians. Nearly four years later, he and four others sought to earn an opportunity to tell the violent Auca (Huaorani) Indians about the love of Christ. While the initial response was positive, the natives killed Jim and his four companions on January 8, 1956.

In *Through Gates of Splendor*, Jim's widow, Elisabeth, said some questioned why Jim would choose to live "in the jungles among primitive people." Yet Jim had written in his journal: "My going to Ecuador is God's counsel, as is my leaving Betty, and my refusal to be counseled by all who insist I should stay and stir up the believers in the U.S. And how do I know it is His counsel? 'Yea, my heart instructeth me in the night seasons.' Oh, how good! For I have known my heart is speaking to me for God! . . . No visions, no voices, but the counsel of a heart which desires God."



➔ If you were faced with the same "fiery furnace" dilemma, what would your response be?

➔ Total surrender means following God no matter what. Do you hear His voice? How can you hear Him better?

➔ Prayerfully consider any personal roadblocks to total surrender. What is the Spirit of God saying to your spirit?

Takeaway Truth

God will be glorified. Have you ever been tested in your faith? If you haven't, you will be. Your response declares what you think God is capable of. Is He able? Yes! Will He deliver what you want? Not always. But when we surrender to His will, we hand the baton to God and let others see His glory and the amazing God we serve. Now go today with the courage to live in surrender to a God who is able to save—God who is “enough” in the midst of whatever your situation is—glorifying Him with your life in the presence of others!

Valor Prayer

MY LORD AND MY GOD, I acknowledge that I am not my own. I have been bought with a price: the precious blood of Jesus. Keep me from living life on my own or only partially surrendered to You. Right now I surrender all that I have and all that I am and all that I ever hope to be to You. Anything, anytime, anywhere, I will fully follow You.

For Further Investigation

- ➔ Luke 9:23-24
- ➔ Mark 10:29-31
- ➔ Luke 9:57-62

Love

Caring Like Jesus

“If the first mark of a true and living church is love, the second is suffering. The one is naturally consequent on the other. A willingness to suffer proves the genuineness of love.”

—John R. W. Stott

Read & Reflect

Read and reflect on 1 Samuel 18:1-4. Consider the following question: *What does male bonding look like?*

The Challenge

Jonathan, the son of Saul, was the heir to the throne of Israel and a mighty warrior in his own right. He and his armor bearer had defeated a whole garrison of Philistine soldiers by themselves (see 1 Samuel 14). He trusted the Lord and acted bravely because of his confidence in God. He would have been an able successor to the throne. He was also a man who was unashamed to love a fellow warrior without reservation: openly, for the entire world to see.

When King Saul brought David into his household, the Bible says that “the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul” (1 Samuel 18:1). This is not an erotic desire, but a deep-seated, soul-satisfying bond between

brothers who had gone to war against a common enemy and had each won their victories. This is a love that gives everything to lift up a friend.

You see, Jonathan made a pact, a covenant, with David. He gave David his armor and his robe. Nice gifts, you say? Even more! What Jonathan gave David were the symbols of his royal succession. He gave David the right to the throne of Israel!

Later, in 1 Samuel 20, Jonathan actually saved David from an attack by his father, Saul, and in so doing incurred Saul's wrath himself. As brothers in the Lord, Jonathan and David were willing to give up anything for each other, and God blessed their friendship. He will do the same for true soul brothers today.

Living It Out

In the mid 1920s, a hard-drinking lumberyard worker named Dawson Trotman and a friend were swimming across a Southern California lake. It was dark, and suddenly the two were gripped with the fear that they wouldn't survive. "God, if you get me out of this, I'll do whatever you want!" Dawson vowed. That's when a boat appeared presumably out of nowhere and rescued them.

Not long after, Dawson found himself in a nearby church in a Scripture memory contest. One of the verses—John 1:12 (KJV), "As many as received him . . ."—hit him hard. "Lord, whatever it means to receive you, I do that right now."

God transformed rugged Dawson and used him to found The Navigators, which still today helps people "to know Christ and to make Him known" worldwide. Dawson put flesh on the bones of another verse from John's Gospel, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). You see, Dawson died in 1956 at New York's Schroon Lake when he had just enough strength to hold up a young woman and save her from drowning.



➔ The Bible repeats the command “love one another” at least 10 times. Why the emphasis?

➔ What prevents a man from having a deep-seated, soul-satisfying bond between brothers like that of Jonathan and David?

➔ What would the church be like if we truly loved one another, even to the point of laying down our lives for one another, if necessary? Would you?

Takeaway Truth

God’s love is immeasurable. As a result, Christ laid down His life so that we could be with the Father. Would you die for someone? Could you commit yourself to that extent? This is the heart of the matter. Yes, there is risk in caring and loving that much. But if not us, who? If not now, when? Ordinary men like us can do extraordinary things when we allow ourselves to love and be loved. You

won't have to look very far to see the opportunities around you. Now go and live today as a man of courage, loving life and others as a reflection of God's love for you!

Valor Prayer

LOVING FATHER, I want to be like Jonathan, unafraid to love a brother as myself. I want to be a friend who loves at all times. You never intended any of Your children to have to go it alone, and I thank You for my brothers in Christ. What's more, I want to be like Dawson, who paid the ultimate price to save another. Grow my love for all people, following the example of Your dear Son. Help me to love like Jesus, sacrificially, come what may.

For Further Investigation

- Matthew 22:34-40
- John 15:9-17
- 1 John 4:7-12

Victory

Living Triumphantly

“The reason why many fail in battle is because they wait until the hour of battle. The reason why others succeed is because they have gained their victory on their knees long before the battle came.

Anticipate your battles; fight them on your knees before temptation comes, and you will always have victory.”

—R. A. Torrey

Read & Reflect

Read and reflect on Jeremiah 35:1-11. Consider the following question: *When it comes to victorious living, what would people expect the life of a Mighty Man of Valor to look like?*

The Challenge

Jaazaniah looked over at his brothers, the family of Recab, to make sure they were all with him. Just ordinary men of Judah, standing together in the house of the Lord (the Temple of God!), before God’s own prophet, Jeremiah, wondering to themselves, “Why are we here?” and “What does Jeremiah want with us?” Before long, the man of God brought out some pitchers and some goblets and poured them all a glass of wine. “Come on, celebrate with me,” he offered. “What’s a little wine between friends?”

What the Recabite brothers didn’t know was that God was

about to use them as an object lesson for the whole land of Judah—and people through the years, even today. Jeremiah knew full well that their father, Jonadab, had put his sons under an oath not to drink wine or build houses, but to live soberly and in tents as long as the family existed. The war with Babylon had forced them to move out of their tents and into Jerusalem, but would they go the next step and drink the wine?

Jaazaniah and his brothers, without so much as a flinch, looked straight into the eyes of Jeremiah and told him to put his wine away; they would have none of it. They were uncompromising men of their word. They had pledged an oath, and they would not break it. These were simple men, herdsman who roamed the deserts of Judah taking care of their flocks. But they were men who knew their God and knew that He gives victory to faithful men, men who steadfastly revere Him come what may.

They dared to trust Him and keep their word. God empowered them to live triumphantly and to become an example to a nation adrift from Him. God will do the same for men of valor today.

Living It Out

Victorious living doesn't necessarily mean success and long life, as the world might define it. It's taking Jesus at His word when He says the greatest way to live is to love God and people (see Matthew 22:34-40). It's living like Jesus in everyday life, come what may. German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who lost his life in World War II for doing just that, is an apt example.

Born into a well-known middle-class family in 1906, Dietrich knew early on that he wanted to be a theologian. His older brother scoffed that he would waste his life on a "poor, feeble, boring, petty, bourgeois institution," to which Dietrich replied, "I shall reform it!" His life and ministry would point the way.

At 21 he earned his doctorate in theology at the University of

Berlin, but his faith went from his head to heart in 1930 when he came to America for postgraduate studies at New York City's Union Theological Seminary. In Harlem he got involved in the African-American church and started seeing things from a different point of view, "from below," as he called it, where he identified with the hurting and oppressed.

Back home in Germany, with the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime, he publicly stood up for the Jews and privately helped some escape to Switzerland. Time in prison didn't deter him. He would resist Hitler to the point of being implicated for trying to assassinate him. The S.S. hanged 39-year-old Dietrich at the Flossenbürg concentration camp, where the camp doctor who witnessed it all wrote, "I have hardly ever seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God."



➔ What are some common challenges for men when it comes to victorious living?

➔ Has your faith ever been tested similar to that of the men who made an oath in Judah or the man who sought to live like Jesus in Germany?

➔ How does God equip and empower men to live triumphantly—as men of strength and courage—and to become examples to their family, friends, and others around them?

Takeaway Truth

God created you for a purpose. Do you know what it is? Jesus knew His purpose and lived on earth with the intentionality of glorifying the Father with His every action and decision. Living and loving like Jesus is a great place to start. We see evidence of His life and impact throughout the New Testament . . . a model for us to follow. Now go, living and loving today with courage, just as Jesus did, claiming your inheritance in the Kingdom of God and triumphantly proclaiming the Gospel of Christ!

Valor Prayer

FATHER GOD, You have promised to never leave us or forsake us, that You will always be with us. As we seek to live triumphantly in a world that denies Your truth, we admit that we are helpless apart from You. But in Christ we are more than conquerors. You have blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. Your Word makes us adequate for every good work. You have promised to provide a way of escape from every temptation. Let us be like the Recabites. Let us be men of valor!

For Further Investigation

- ➔ 1 Corinthians 10:12-13
- ➔ 2 Corinthians 2:14-17
- ➔ Matthew 4:1-11

Going Forward

Well done! You've finished *Mighty Men of Valor: Book 2 – Courage*, the second in a three-part series of studies that offer key priorities for Kingdom living. But really, this journey is just beginning. Here's how you can keep in the right race at the right pace.

First, it is imperative that you continue the journey by meeting with God every day. How do you make that practical? We recommend starting out with 10 minutes a day with what we call “Take 10” with God.

If someone tells you to “take 10,” they're telling you to stop what you're doing and take a 10-minute break.

Sometimes that break can't come soon enough! We live in such a fast-paced world we can be in danger of wearing ourselves out if we don't press the pause button from time to time.

That goes for our spiritual lives as well. We know in our heart of hearts that we need to take a “time out” to be with God every day. We know the benefits of doing so . . . and we know what happens when we fail to do so—we're either revitalized or drained spiritually!

Here are just a few Bible verses that remind us why it's important to take time out with God:

- ➔ “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” —Psalm 46:10
- ➔ “Come near to God and he will come near to you.” —James 4:8a
- ➔ “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” —Mark 1:35

There's an old saying, “You deserve a break today!” If we are to live in light of these and many other Bible verses, we need a

“spiritual break” each day! And a good start is by thinking of it this way: **“Take 10” with God!**

So how might you spend those *ten precious minutes*? Many people have found it beneficial to focus on getting into the Bible and talking with God about what they read and about everyday life. With this in mind, you might consider starting this way:

3 minutes – Read the Bible. How can anyone keep on the right and best path, “on the path of purity? By living according to your word” (Psalm 119:9).

3 minutes – Meditate on what you read. Consider three questions: *What does it say? What does it mean? And what does it mean to me?* How can anyone stay on the best, most blessed path? “Blessed is the one . . . whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night” (Psalm 1:1-2).

4 minutes – Pray. A great way to pray is the “ACTS” Plan, giving a minute each to the following four topics: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Jesus Himself said, “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (Matthew 6:6).

Here’s the thing. You start with 10 minutes a day, and before long it becomes a habit! Not only that, before long you find you’re able to stretch that 10 minutes into 15 . . . even a half hour or more! To be revitalized or drained spiritually—the choice is yours!

Here’s how the psalm-writer David put it: “You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1).

When’s the best time for you to “Take 10” with God—in the morning, midday, or evening? Why not give it a try and see how the Lord leads? *You deserve a break today*—and you’ll be glad you did!

Second, consider moving on to *Mighty Men of Valor: Book 3 – Passion* in our series. The following suggestions are for men who opt not to continue on in the series as they have through this particular Bible study.

Third, if you've processed this study Side-by-Side or in a triad or small group setting, remember that Warrior Brothers continue to "be there" for one another. Commit to pray for and encourage one another. Pick up resources you feel would help your Warrior Brothers continue the *Mighty Men of Valor* journey. Keep the lines of communication open so you can catch up on others' lives, give updates on the progress you've made on issues that surfaced during this study, and have an extended prayer time together.

Finally, look around and consider if there's a person or another group of men with whom you would like to process this material. As Solomon said, "Two are better than one" (Ecclesiastes 4:9); and as the writer of Hebrews added, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together" (Hebrews 10:24-25a). Never go it alone. Always have a Warrior Brother at your side, and always be there for the men in your sphere of influence.

The Lord is with you, Mighty Man of Valor! May He continue to bless and lead you.

About the Authors

Dean Ridings, Bob Jones, and Scott Ballenger are founding members of Make a Mark Ministries—see www.makeamark.net. They are actively involved in a variety of disciple-making and men's ministry initiatives.

Dean is a pastor and director of biblical counseling and discipleship at Calvary Worship Center in Colorado Springs. He has an MA, an M.Div. and a Th. D. Dean also serves as affiliate faculty at Colorado Christian University. Dean and Kim have four married children. Email him at dean@makeamark.net.

Bob has a Th. M. and teaches theology part-time at Grand Canyon University. He and his wife, Kate, have three grown children and five grandchildren. Bob and Kate live in Peoria, Arizona. You can contact Bob at bob@makeamark.net.

Scott has a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and is a senior engineer at VMware. The father of two adult children, Scott and his wife, Robin, live in Colorado Springs. Email Scott at scott@makeamark.net.

For information about Make a Mark Ministries, our ministry initiatives, and other resources we have developed “for the gospel and generations,” find us online at www.makeamark.net.

Make a Mark
MINISTRIES

A Make a Mark Ministries Bible Study Series

www.makeamark.net

Mighty Men of Valor have three distinct characteristics: Strength, Courage & Passion



Men need Strength that comes from God alone, the kind of strength He gave men like Gideon—who lived at a time when everyone did what was right in their own eyes—David and his band of mighty men, and Jesus’ early church followers!

Men need Courage to stand strong in increasingly challenging times, because we live in a world that’s not what God created—evil exists, and as someone has said, “All it takes for evil to flourish is good men to stand by and do nothing”!



Men need Passion to live in light of the fact that the God of the universe chose us to be His children, called us to be kingdom men, and enables us to passionately live like Jesus and advance His Gospel where we live, work, and play through the generations!

Go through the entire **Mighty Men of Valor** series!

1. Use these studies as a daily devotional. We strongly encourage every man to take time out for a daily meeting—or appointment—with God.
2. Work through these studies with another man. Think of this as walking “Side-by-Side,” meeting weekly for mutual growth, support, and accountability.
3. Connect with other men in a triad or small-group setting. Think of Jesus, who invested in a small group of 12 men, guiding them on the spiritual journey.

Make a Mark
MINISTRIES

To order titles in the **Mighty Men of Valor** series:
www.makeamark.net

ARE YOU LIVING WITH KINGDOM-MINDED PURPOSE?

This is God's desire for you . . . The journey awaits!

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

—Jesus (Matthew 24:14)

“If we have a limited time with someone, we would want him or her to fully grasp the **gospel of the Kingdom** and its implications.”

That’s the heart behind this workbook. We would want men and women to take what we call the **Kingdom Life journey**, passing the following signposts along the way:



- ✓ Seeing the Kingdom Vision
- ✓ Relating to the King
- ✓ Representing the King
- ✓ Living with Kingdom-Minded Purpose

Ideal for one-to-one and small-group processing, each of the 12 lessons will help you SEE, SEARCH, STAND, and SHOW life-changing Kingdom principles.

Join the journey and see the gospel of the Kingdom advance deeper in your own heart and make an eternal difference in the lives of those around you!

Make a Mark
MINISTRIES

FIND “THE KINGDOM LIFE JOURNEY” ON AMAZON OR
WWW.MAKEAMARK.NET

Tap into this free series to help “Ignite the Kingdom Life” within you!

Asked if he was the long-anticipated Messiah, John the Baptist pushed back immediately—that’s Jesus! Yet he did take the opportunity to speak of God’s mission for his life:

*“I’m baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama—compared to him I’m a mere stagehand—will **ignite the kingdom life** within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out” (Matthew 3:11 MSG).*

We have developed a series of one-page monographs to help **Ignite the Kingdom Life**—all freely available as PDF downloads and may be reproduced for ministry! They’ll help you:



- ✓ Get to Know God
- ✓ Get into God’s Word
- ✓ Talk to God . . . Pray
- ✓ Walk With Jesus Day by Day
- ✓ Live in Light of the Spiritual Battle

Print them out, process and pray through them, keep a few in your Bible to pass along to fellow Christians who long to make a Kingdom difference in everyday life!

**Download the entire set free of charge at:
www.makeamark.net**

Courage

PRIORITIES FOR KINGDOM LIVING

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9). With this charge, God sent Joshua, as head of the nation of Israel, to conquer the Promised Land. Join us in becoming a courageous warrior for God.

The world is not as God created it. Evil exists. Persecution happens. God has given men responsibilities, and often we fear failure. Men of Valor need great courage.

We need courage to love our wives, teach our kids, live honestly, spread the Gospel, overcome fear, and work hard on the job.

Mighty Men of Valor have three distinct characteristics; *strength*, *courage*, and *passion*.

In this Bible study we unpack the second characteristic, what it means to have *courage* in Christ.

Make a Mark Ministries encourages and equips God’s people to know, live, and spread the Gospel.



Dean Ridings



Bob Jones



Scott Ballenger

Make a Mark
MINISTRIES

FOR THE GOSPEL AND GENERATIONS

6660 Delmonico Drive, Suite D-140
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919

info@makeamark.net



find us on facebook at
makeamarkministries

www.makeamark.net