



September 2015



Virtue of the Month

Join us this month as we pray **COURAGE** for our children.

Prayer:

Merciful Father, I lift <child> before you and pray that she would be willing to go wherever you lead. I pray that she would set her heart on

TEACHING CHILDREN COURAGE

by Matt Noetzel, Elementary Team Leader

Have you ever noticed that some of the truths we teach our kids are incredibly easy to communicate, and incredibly difficult to obey? At Camp War Eagle, we taught our kids to put God first in everything, and put others before themselves, we called it "F.I.T." - First Is Third. Easy to say, it requires a lifetime of discipline to live out. Jesus taught the same way! Have you ever heard a child excellently quote a saying of Christ? (Surely! "Love one another.") Have you ever met an adult that excellently and consistently lived the quotes of Christ? (Not so surely!) Around the Noetzel house, we face this dilemma daily as we parent our little ones. We deeply desire to teach them not just obedience (rules don't save!), but also the skills and character to make the right decisions.

A recent character lesson on repeat in our home is the desire to see our sons and daughter make decisions that model **courage**. From the new *Cinderella* movie ("Be kind, and have courage") to blockbuster Christian films (*Courageous*, anyone?), there are lots of examples of ways people have sought to explain and teach this important character trait.

In our experience, we've found that one of the hardest places to have courage, and therefore one of the best places to teach our children about courage, is in admitting fault. When Dewey knows he's done something wrong, and that confession will likely result in punishment, we've taught him to "have courage." He has to make the difficult, ultimately correct decision, to confess wrongdoing. When he does, we're able to teach him about the grace that Jesus offers as sin is exposed, and the forgiveness that swiftly comes as a result. Though there may still be consequences (as sin wreaks havoc on our lives, even when it's confessed and repented of), the overall situation is healthier, and more God-honoring, than if he had continued walking in the shame of hidden disobedience.

following you at any cost. When she finds herself in a difficult place, give her courage and confidence in you alone. Lord, strengthen <child> to run the race and complete the task you have planned for her. I want her to be able to talk about the evidence of your grace in her life.

Scripture:

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of [the people you encounter], for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deut. 31:6 (NIV)

Parents, do you have need for courage? Do you need to admit parenting fault when your anger / impatience / frustration / own agenda / pride get in the way of lovingly shepherding your children? Do you need courage to right a wrong at work, or with your spouse, or with a neighbor or friend? Is there unconfessed sin that you can humbly and courageously bring to Jesus and find unending grace? This month, Mosaic staff members are praying for courage for our students and families, and we invite you to join us in this prayer.

RESOURCES

BOOKS

[Home Grown Heroes: Practical Principles for Raising Courageous Kids](#)
[Raising Modern Day Knights While They Are Sleeping](#)

ARTICLES

[How Do I Teach My Kids To Handle Peer Pressure](#)

OTHER

[Seeds of Courage, Vol 1 CD](#)

What's Happening?

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER:

Parent/Child Dedication

Saturday, September 26

Streetfest

Wednesday, October 28

More info coming soon!

