

Encouragement part of courage

Joshua 1:16-18

July 12, 2015

1. Pastor Tom began by saying that many of us are given difficult assignments in life. Are you currently in the midst of a difficult assignment or have previously been given a difficult assignment from God? Discuss with your group. Who has God sent to offer you encouragement? In what way(s) has that person or persons been an encouragement to you?
2. Pastor Tom mentioned that Joshua received a difficult assignment from God. Joshua had always worked alongside Moses, but Moses had always been in charge. What do you think were some of Joshua's thoughts and greatest fears when given this assignment? Do you think that Joshua ever felt overwhelmed or inadequate?
3. Read Joshua 1:5, 16-18. What two things does God specifically do to encourage Joshua? Why are these two things both needed? How does knowing that God is with you encourage you in your assignment? (See also Rom. 8:31).
4. There are four ways that the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh encourage Joshua:
 - (1) They assure Joshua of their complete allegiance and willingness to help.
 - (2) They encourage Joshua by praying for him.
 - (3) They take Joshua's assignment very seriously.
 - (4) They tell Joshua to be strong and courageous.Discuss within your group how each of these methods of encouragement are vital in our encouragement to others. How were these things vital to Joshua?
5. Take time to pray with your group. Pray specifically about how you can be an encouragement to someone in your group or to someone else on a difficult assignment. Ask God to reveal to you a person who you can offer encouragement this week.