



"He who is
BRAVE is free."
--Seneca

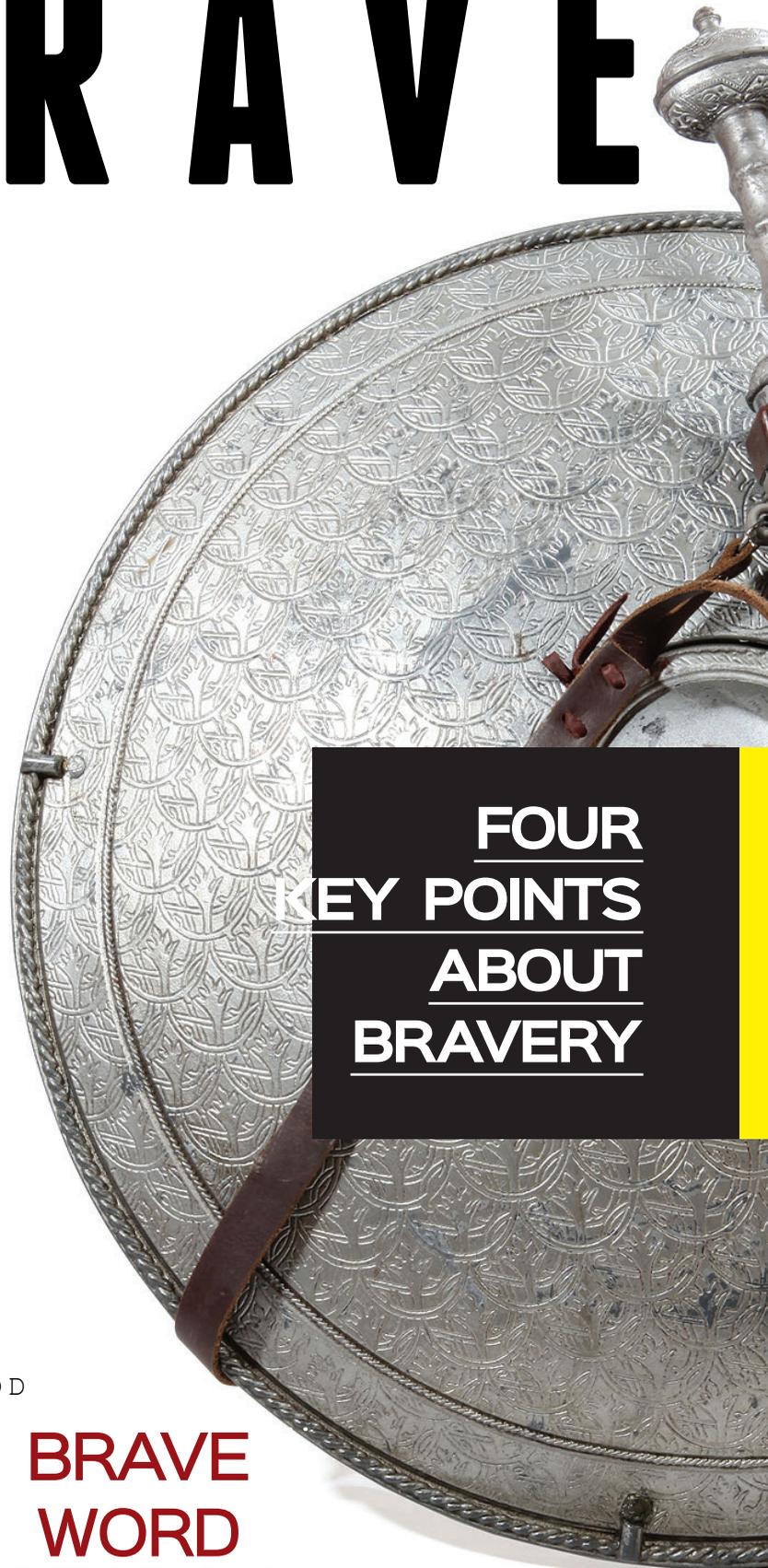
BRAVE

IT TAKES GREAT BRAVERY TO BE A GREAT MAN.
Bravery is demonstrated by our actions, but it starts in our hearts.

This study in bravery is meant to help you develop the bravery in your heart that will help you become the leader you were created to be.

Every great leader in history had bravery. They had to stand up and stand out against evil. As a Man of Honor you will need **BRAVERY**.

Another word for bravery is
COURAGE.



**FOUR
KEY POINTS
ABOUT
BRAVERY**

ALONE	DEFEND	SEEK GOD
BATTLE	GUTS	STAND
BOLD	HEART	STEADY
CHOOSE	HONOR	STRONG
COURAGE	HOPE	SURE
DANIEL	LIONS	SWORD
DAVID	PRAY	TRUST

**BRAVE
WORD
SEARCH**

4

WHEN THEY SAW THE COURAGE OF PETER AND JOHN AND REALIZED THAT THEY WERE UNSCHOOLED, ORDINARY MEN, THEY WERE ASTONISHED AND TOOK NOTE THAT THESE MEN HAD BEEN WITH JESUS. (ACTS 4:13)

FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF FEAR AND TIMIDITY, BUT OF POWER, LOVE, AND SELF-DISCIPLINE. (2 TIMOTHY 1:7)

KEY VERSES

THE WICKED RUN AWAY WHEN NO ONE IS CHASING THEM, BUT THE GODLY ARE AS BOLD AS LIONS. (PROVERBS 28:1)

THIS IS MY COMMAND – BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS! DO NOT BE AFRAID OR DISCOURAGED. FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO. (JOSHUA 1:9)

I

BRAVERY ORIGINATES IN THE HEART

II

BRAVERY IS THE MARK OF A GREAT LEADER

III

BRAVERY IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF FEAR

IV

BEING A MAN REQUIRES BRAVERY

R S C G S H D Y Y J X C X M E
 Z C R T N E O D R O W S X Q N
 Q W U P F O F N B A T T L E O
 H G H E R G R M O S Q D E P L
 M C N Y D A E T S R O L G D A
 T D H I O M Y T S G S I A A C
 E S V O G J A Q K C U O R N D
 B A U K O N O E N J R N U I L
 D D S R D S E H O P E S O E O
 K I Z K T S E H E A R T C L B

BRAVERY = COURAGE

**BRAVERY: SPIRIT OF CONDUCT,
COURAGE OR VALOR**

**SYNONYMS: BOLD, INTREPID,
DAUNTLESS, HEROIC**

1. BRAVERY BEGINS IN THE HEART

BRAVERY KEY POINT 1: BRAVERY BEGINS IN THE HEART

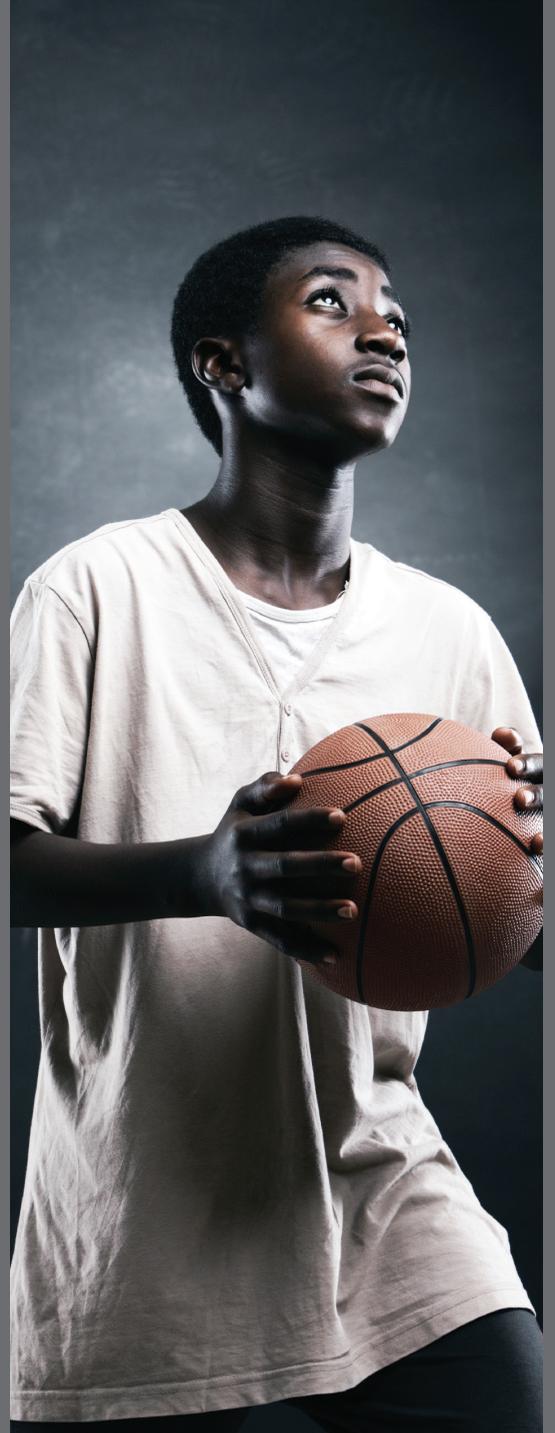
Bravery is not what you might think. Bravery isn't dangerous reckless dares. It isn't being the first to jump off something high, or doing something dangerous. That's foolishness. Bravery is much more than that. Bravery is an attitude of your heart that does what's right, even when everyone else wants you to do wrong.

The word courage comes from the Latin 'Cor' which, when translated to English, means heart. Another word for bravery is courage. The word courage simply means having heart. Once we realize that our heart is the seat of courage, we begin examining the state of our heart. Is it plagued with fear or is it strong and full of courage? Bravery & Courage are synonymous, or mean the same thing.

BRAVERY is the force that overcomes fear.

Bravery is the force that tells us to move ahead when everything inside us is telling us to run away. Bravery is the power that we summon to say "no" to fear and in spite of fear, respond in boldness, courage, and strength.

As a man, there will be many times when fear will grip you and try to stop you from doing the right





.....
**BRAVERY IS THE FORCE
THAT OVERCOMES FEAR**
.....



thing. In all of these instances, you must try to respond with bravery in spite of fear.

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

The religious leaders of Jesus' day were amazed at his teaching because he didn't teach like everyone else. He taught with authority. In other words, He knew how to lay it straight. Where I come from in Texas, we'd say, "He knew how to shuck the corn." He could say with piercing conviction what needed to be said, even when it wasn't the popular thing to say. He had a huge heart. He had authority like no other because he had courage like no other.

.....
WHAT AXIOM
CAN YOU THINK
OF THAT GOES
WITH THIS
TEACHING?
.....

.....

.....



.....
**"WHEN WE SPEND TIME
WITH JESUS, WE BECOME
MORE COURAGEOUS AND
OUR HEARTS ENLARGE."**
.....

**DURING THESE DANGEROUS AND CRISIS FILLED
TIMES, ITS TIME TO KICK OUR BRAVERY INTO
THE NEXT GEAR.**

BRAVERY = COURAGE

**BRAVERY: SPIRIT OF CONDUCT,
COURAGE OR VALOR**

**SYNONYMS: BOLD, INTREPID,
DAUNTLESS, HEROIC**

2. COURAGE IS THE MARK OF A GREAT LEADER

BRAVERY KEY POINT 2: COURAGE IS THE MARK OF A GREAT LEADER

During the Egyptian campaign of the late 1700's, Napoleon Bonaparte was faced with a terrible dilemma. The bubonic plague was raging in Europe and specifically in one city Napoleon needed his troops to conquer. Because of fear of contracting the plague, his men were paralyzed and would not advance.

The plague was a horrible disease that killed millions. When one contracted the plague, they grew large knots beneath their arms and in other places. They developed large "buboles" which would swell and burst, as the powerless victim would die of raging fever, delirium, and pain.

To be in contact with the sick meant to catch the disease and die. Many would quarantine themselves from the sick, but it seemed to reach multitudes despite their precautions. Napoleon had an interesting theory that would help him to motivate his men to advance despite the danger; He knew it would take courage.

Napoleon is attributed as saying, "During the Egyptian campaign all those whose imagination was struck by fear died of it. The surest protection, the most efficacious remedy, was moral courage...The best way to preserve the army from the disease was to keep on the march and occupied. Diversion and fatigue were

found to be the best prevention."

He then did an amazing thing. He gathered his men together and walked down into the town. In full view of all the men, he picked up the corpse of a plague victim with busted buboles all over the body.

The story is told that he carried the corpse through his troops. While the stunned soldiers watched this act of complete disregard for danger, Napoleon carried the body close in his arms and announced that contact with the plague does not cause the plague, but fear of the plague causes it.

His amazed troops watched him over a period of days to see whether or not their leader would contract the deadly disease. To their surprise the leader remained fit, healthy, and full of vigor.

The men then came to the conclusion that fear was the cause of the plague, not control. They were spurred on by this act of courage to face their fears and advance.

Men follow other men who are courageous. You were created to be courageous, big in heart and a leader to be followed.

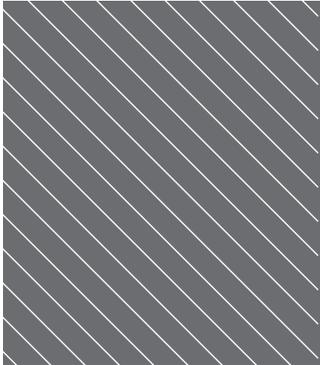
Face your fears and see the fears dissipate. The simple truth is - 99% of the things we fear never come to pass.

BRAVERY = COURAGE

**BRAVERY: SPIRIT OF CONDUCT,
COURAGE OR VALOR**

**SYNONYMS: BOLD, INTREPID,
DAUNTLESS, HEROIC**

3. BRAVERY IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF FEAR...



BRAVERY KEY POINT 3: BRAVERY IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF FEAR...

As the great cowboy actor John Wayne once said “Courage is being scared to death...and saddling up anyway.”

Bravery is not the absence of fear, but pushing ahead in spite of the fear to show courage and strength and not allowing fear to tell you what you will or will not do.

A decision made out of fear will often lead to regret and an undesired outcome, long-term. A decision made from faith or courage will often result in a God sized outcome and bring contentment long-term. Just because we get scared doesn't mean we are not brave; it just means we are human. But what we do with that fear determines if we are brave. If we let it control us, we are fearful.

If we step up and face our fears, the death of fear is sure. Many of the brave and honorable things we have to do in life will be done with shaking knees and quivering voice. But we do them anyway.

Psychologists tell us that we are only born with two innate fears: First, the fear of falling and secondly, the fear of loud noises.

These fears can be healthy in helping us avoid danger and may even save our lives. All other fears are learned behaviors. But as we go through life, we can become afraid of different things and situations if we are not careful to guard our heart and refuse to allow fear to grip us.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a brave leader in the civil rights movement and was arrested multiple times for his courageous stand against tyranny and injustice.

“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle...”

When King talked about progress being neither automatic (happening all by itself) nor inevitable (can't be avoided), we can imagine he had a seen a society where people had just allowed things to continue as they were. It took solid moral courage, the kind that stays strong, even through the worst circumstances, to fight for justice for his people.

Though he was harassed, threatened, arrested, and rejected, King stood strong against his fears, and had the courage to change the world.

**“THE REAL MAN SMILES IN TROUBLE, GATHERS STRENGTH FROM
DISTRESS, AND GROWS BRAVE BY REFLECTION.”
--THOMAS PAINE**



.....
**BRAVERY IS THE FORCE
THAT OVERCOMES FEAR**
.....



.....
IS THERE A HERO
YOU ADMIRE
FOR TAKING A
STAND AGAINST
WRONG?
.....



THE ULTIMATE MEASURE OF A MAN according to Martin Luther King, Jr., "is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested and sent to jail because he and others were protesting the treatment of blacks in Birmingham, Alabama. A court had ordered that King could not hold protests in Birmingham. He staged a number of peaceful protests against segregation and discrimination, and was often arrested and beaten, but he never backed down from his beliefs.

In 1968, he was murdered for the stand he took on civil rights.

.....
MANY OF THE BRAVE AND HONORABLE THINGS

WE HAVE TO DO IN LIFE WILL BE DONE WITH

SHAKING KNEES AND QUIVERING VOICE.

BRAVERY = COURAGE

**BRAVERY: SPIRIT OF CONDUCT,
COURAGE OR VALOR**

**SYNONYMS: BOLD, INTREPID,
DAUNTLESS, HEROIC**

4. BEING A MAN REQUIRES BRAVERY

BRAVERY KEY POINT 4: BEING A MAN REQUIRES BRAVERY

Courage is the mark of a man and the more effective and powerful a man would seek to be, the more bravery he will need.

As a man, it takes bravery to:

FACE REALITY – Brave men are able to realistically assess their situation and accept facts for what they are.

ADMIT NEED – A brave man is brave and humble enough to admit when he is in need and unable to make it by himself.

CHANGE - change is inevitable and will be a constant in life. It takes real bravery to be able to adapt and make changes in a turbulent environment.

MAKE DECISIONS – decisiveness is the mark of a man. It was once said “not everyone likes strong leadership, but everyone hates weak leadership.”

MANY OF THE BRAVE AND HONORABLE THINGS WE HAVE TO DO IN LIFE WILL BE DONE WITH SHAKING KNEES AND QUIVERING VOICE.

HOLD CONVICTIONS – the sway of public opinion will rise and fall, but a brave man has the inner strength to stand up when everyone around him is bowing.

It is inevitable that, as a man, you will be placed in situations where fear may try to grip you. Your preparation in this study will help you remember that fear is normal and can be overcome with bravery.

BRAVERY BEGINS IN YOUR HEART

If your heart is not right, you will not be able to be Brave.

Heroes are those in whom Bravery has become visible.

“THE MORE EFFECTIVE AND POWERFUL A MAN WOULD SEEK TO BE, THE MORE BRAVERY HE WILL NEED.”



.....
**BRAVERY IS THE FORCE
THAT OVERCOMES FEAR**
.....



1. LIST 3 HEROES FROM THE PAST OR THE PRESENT THAT HAVE SHOWN GREAT BRAVERY.

GIVE EXAMPLES:

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

2. WHAT ARE THE 5 REASONS MENTIONED ABOVE THAT A MAN WOULD NEED BRAVERY?

A. It takes bravery to: _____

B. It takes bravery to: _____

C. It takes bravery to: _____

D. It takes bravery to: _____

E. It takes bravery to: _____

3. What are the areas that you have struggled with fear in your own life? _____

4. WHAT ARE SOME GODLY WAYS THAT YOU CAN SHOW BRAVERY AND AVOID THE PROBLEMS YOU WROTE ABOVE? _____

PROFILES in BRAVERY

**COURAGE IS
CONTAGIOUS.
WHEN A BRAVE MAN
TAKES A STAND,
THE SPINES OF OTHERS
ARE OFTEN STIFFENED."**

--Billy Graham

DAVID



GOLIATH CHALLENGES THE ISRAELITES

1 The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. 2 Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. 3 So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them.

4 Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall!

5 He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. 6 He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. 7

The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield.

8 Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul.

Choose one man to come down here and fight me! 9

If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves!

10 I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!" 11 When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

JESSE SENDS DAVID TO SAUL'S CAMP

12 Now David was the son of a man named Jesse, an Ephrathite from Bethlehem in the land of Judah.

Jesse was an old man at that time, and he had eight sons. 13 Jesse's three oldest sons—Eliab, Abinadab, and Shimea—had already joined Saul's army to fight the Philistines. 14 David was the youngest son. David's three oldest brothers stayed with Saul's army, 15 but David went back and forth so he could help his father with the sheep in Bethlehem.

16 For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army.

17 One day Jesse said to David, "Take this basket of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread, and carry them quickly to your brothers. 18 And give these ten cuts of cheese to their captain. See how your brothers are getting along, and bring back a report on how they are doing." 19 David's brothers were with Saul and the Israelite army at the valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines.

20 So David left the sheep with another shepherd and set out early the next morning with the gifts, as Jesse had directed him. He arrived at the camp just as the Israelite army was leaving for the battlefield with shouts and battle cries. 21 Soon the Israelite and Philistine forces stood facing each other, army against army.

22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to the ranks to

greet his brothers. 23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel.

24 As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright. 25 "Have you seen the giant?" the men asked. "He comes out each day to defy Israel. The king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him. He will give that man one of his daughters for a wife, and the man's entire family will be exempted from paying taxes!"

26 David asked the soldiers standing nearby, "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"

27 And these men gave David the same reply. They said, "Yes, that is the reward for killing him."

28 But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway? 29

"What have I done now?" David replied. "I was only asking a question!" 30 He walked over to some others and asked them the same thing and received the same answer. 31 Then David's question was reported to King Saul, and the king sent for him.

KEEP GOING, CHAMPION!

PROFILES IN BRAVERY: DAVID

**HEROES
ARE THOSE IN
WHOM BRAVERY
BECOMES
VISIBLE**

DAVID KILLS GOLIATH

32 “Don’t worry about this Philistine,” David told Saul. “I’ll go fight him!”

33 “Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.”

34 But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said.

“When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, 35 I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death.

36 I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! 37 The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!”

Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the LORD be with you!”

38 Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. 39 David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before.

“I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off again. 40 He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only

with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

41 Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, 42 sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. 43 “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. 44 “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled.

45 David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! 47 And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD’s battle, and he will give you to us!”

48 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. 49 Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. 51

Then David ran over and pulled Goliath’s sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head.

ISRAEL ROUTS THE PHILISTINES

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran. 52 Then the men of Israel and Judah gave a great shout of triumph and rushed after the Philistines, chasing them as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron. The bodies of the dead and wounded Philistines were strewn all along the road from Shaaraim, as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 Then the Israelite army returned and plundered the deserted Philistine camp. 54 (David took the Philistine’s head to Jerusalem, but he stored the man’s armor in his own tent.)

55 As Saul watched David go out to fight the Philistine, he asked Abner, the commander of his army, “Abner, whose son is this young man?”

“I really don’t know,” Abner declared.

56 “Well, find out who he is!” the king told him.

57 As soon as David returned from killing Goliath, Abner brought him to Saul with the Philistine’s head still in his hand.

58 “Tell me about your father, young man,” Saul said. And David replied, “His name is Jesse, and we live in Bethlehem.”

KEEP GOING, CHAMPION!

PROFILES IN BRAVERY: DAVID

DAVID IS CHOSEN TO BE KING

1 Samuel 16

Now the LORD said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king."

2But Samuel asked, "How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

"Take a heifer with you," the LORD replied, "and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the LORD. 3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me."

4So Samuel did as the LORD instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him.

"What's wrong?" they asked. "Do you come in peace?"

5"Yes," Samuel replied. "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.

6When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the LORD's anointed!"

7But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for

I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

8Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "This is not the one the LORD has chosen."

9Next Jesse summoned Shimea,^a but Samuel said, "Neither is this the one the LORD has chosen." 10In the same way all seven of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." 11Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats."

"Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives." 12So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the LORD said, "This is the one; anoint him."

13 So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.

**"PEOPLE
JUDGE BY
OUTWARD
APPEARANCE,
BUT THE
LORD
LOOKS
AT THE
HEART."**

**YOU WERE
BORN TO BE
A FAVOURITE!**

**DAVID WAS THE
LEAST FAVOURITE
WHEN IT CAME TO
HIS FATHER AND
BROTHERS.**



**...BUT WHEN IT CAME TO GOD,
HE WAS THE
FAVOURITE.**

**YOU MIGHT NOT BE THE FAVOURITE
AT YOUR HOUSE, SCHOOL,
OR NEIGHBORHOOD,
BUT YOU CAN BE
GOD'S FAVOURITE!**

QUESTIONS

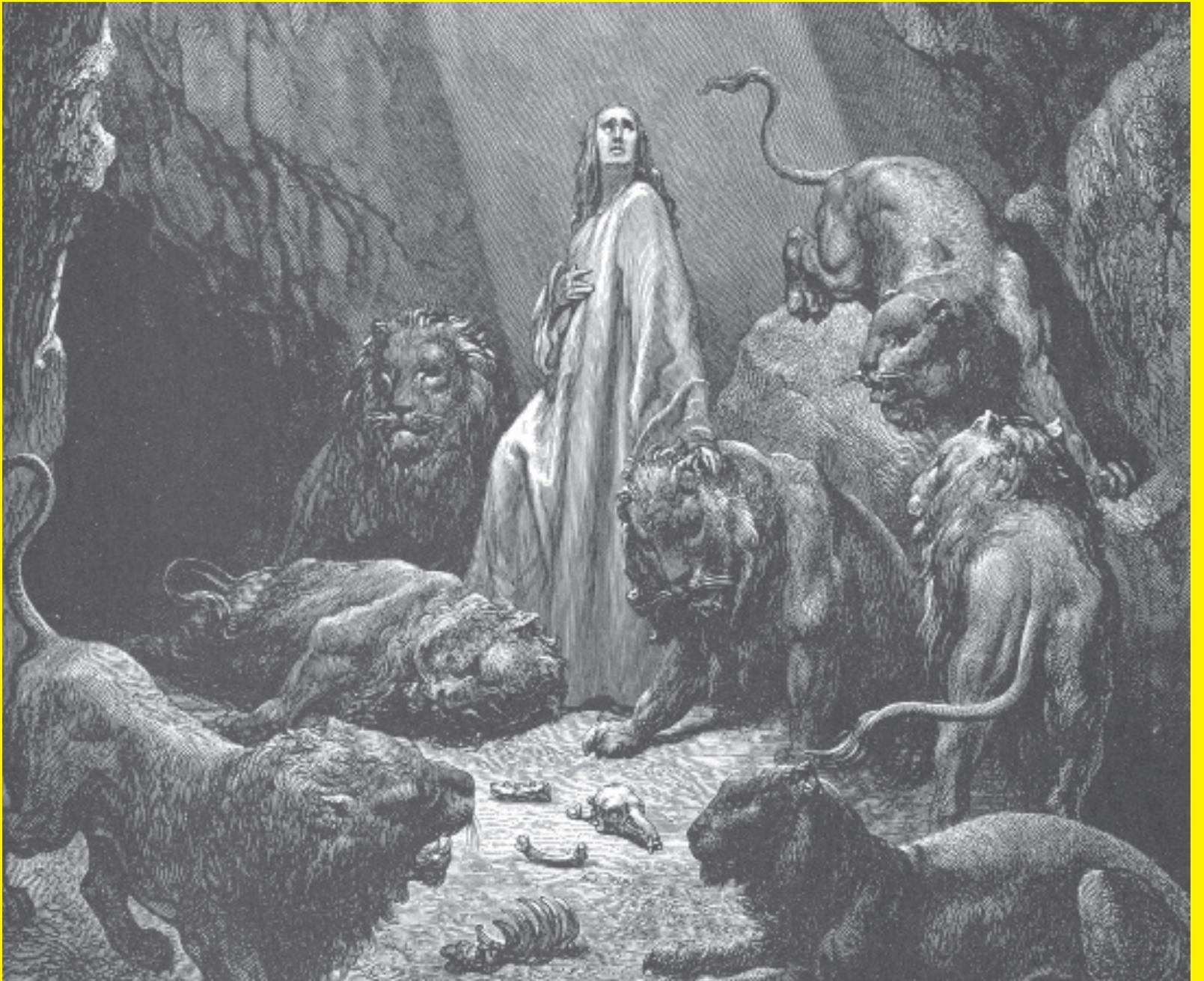
1. What is the difference, according to verse 7, in the way God looks at people and the way people look at people?

2. What do you think caused God to choose David over his brothers?

3. Do you ever feel like you are least likely to be chosen for something great? Why?

KEEP GOING, CHAMPION!

PROFILES in BRAVERY



DANIEL

DANIEL IN NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S COURT

1 During the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah, a King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 The Lord gave him victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah and permitted him to take some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God. So Nebuchadnezzar took them back to the land of Babylonia and placed them in the treasure-house of his god.

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah's royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives. 4 "Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men," he said. "Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon." 5 The king assigned them a daily ration of food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for three years, and then they would enter the royal service.

6 Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah. 7 The chief of staff renamed them with these Babylonian names:

Daniel was called Belteshazzar. Hananiah was called Shadrach. Mishael was called Meshach. Azariah was called Abednego.

8 But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. 9 Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel. 10 But he responded, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has ordered that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me beheaded."

11 Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 12 "Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water," Daniel said. 13 "At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's food. Then make your decision in light of what you see." 14 The attendant agreed to Daniel's suggestion and tested them for ten days.

15 At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. 16 So after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the food and wine provided for the others.

17 God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of

"WHENEVER THE KING CONSULTED THEM IN ANY MATTER REQUIRING WISDOM AND BALANCED JUDGMENT, HE FOUND THEM TEN TIMES MORE CAPABLE THAN ANY OF THE MAGICIANS AND ENCHANTERS IN HIS ENTIRE KINGDOM."

visions and dreams.

18 When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service. 20 Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.

21 Daniel remained in the royal service until the first year of the reign of King Cyrus.

Chapter 2

1 One night during the second year of his reign, a Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep. 2 He called in his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, and he demanded that they tell him what he had dreamed. As they stood before the king, 3 he said, "I have had a dream that deeply troubles me, and I must know what it means." 4 Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic,

PROFILES IN BRAVERY: DANIEL

**BUT THERE IS A
GOD IN HEAVEN
WHO REVEALS
SECRETS**

“Long live the king! Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means.”

5But the king said to the astrologers, “I am serious about this. If you don’t tell me what my dream was and what it means, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be turned into heaps of rubble! 6But if you tell me what I dreamed and what the dream means, I will give you many wonderful gifts and honors. Just tell me the dream and what it means!”

7They said again, “Please, Your Majesty. Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means.”

8The king replied, “I know what you are doing! You’re stalling for time because you know I am serious when I say, 9‘If you don’t tell me the dream, you are doomed.’ So you have conspired to tell me lies, hoping I will change my mind. But tell me the dream, and then I’ll know that you can tell me what it means.” 10The astrologers replied to the king, “No one on earth can tell the king his dream! And no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked such a thing of any magician, enchanter, or astrologer! 11The king’s demand is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among people.”

12The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be executed. 13And because of the king’s decree, men were sent to find and kill Daniel and his friends.

14When Arioch, the commander of the king’s guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion. 15He asked Arioch, “Why has the

king issued such a harsh decree?” So Arioch told him all that had happened. 16Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant.

17Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. 18He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon. 19That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. 20He said, “Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power.

21He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. 22He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light.

23I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded.”

DANIEL INTERPRETS THE DREAM

24Then Daniel went in to see Arioch, whom the king had ordered to execute the wise men of Babylon. Daniel said to him, “Don’t kill the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will tell him the meaning of his dream.”

25Arioch quickly took Daniel to the king and said, “I have found one of the captives from Judah who will tell the king the meaning of his dream!”

26The king said to Daniel (also

known as Belshazzar) “Is this true? Can you tell me what the dream was and what it means?” 27Daniel replied, “There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king’s secret. 28But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed.

29“While Your Majesty was sleeping, you dreamed about coming events. He who reveals secrets has shown you what is going to happen. 30And it is not because I am wiser than anyone else that I know the secret of your dream, but because God wants you to understand what was in your heart.

31“In your vision, Your Majesty, you saw standing before you a huge, shining statue of a man. It was a frightening sight. 32The head of the statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze, 33its legs were iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and baked clay.

34As you watched, a rock was cut from a mountain, but not by human hands. It struck the feet of iron and clay, smashing them to bits. 35The whole statue was crushed into small pieces of iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold. Then the wind blew them away without a trace, like chaff on a threshing floor. But the rock that knocked the statue down became a great mountain that covered the whole earth.

36“That was the dream. Now we will tell the king what it means. 37Your Majesty, you are the greatest of kings. The God of

heaven has given you sovereignty, power, strength, and honor.

38He has made you the ruler over all the inhabited world and has put even the wild animals and birds under your control. You are the head of gold.

39“But after your kingdom comes to an end, another kingdom, inferior to yours, will rise to take your place. After that kingdom has fallen, yet a third kingdom, represented by bronze, will rise to rule the world. 40Following that kingdom, there will be a fourth one, as strong as iron. That kingdom will smash and crush all previous empires, just as iron smashes and crushes everything it strikes. 41The feet and toes you saw were a combination of iron and baked clay, showing that this kingdom will be divided. Like iron mixed with clay, it will have some of the strength of iron.

42But while some parts of it will be as strong as iron, other parts will be as weak as clay. 43This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other through intermarriage. But they will not hold together, just as iron and clay do not mix.

44“During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever. 45That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain, though not by human hands, that crushed to pieces the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God was showing the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its meaning is certain.”

NEBUCHADNEZZAR REWARDS DANIEL

46Then King Nebuchadnezzar threw himself down before Daniel and worshiped him, and he commanded his people to offer sacrifices and burn sweet incense before him. 47The king said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret.”

48Then the king appointed Daniel to a high position and gave him many valuable gifts. He made Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon, as well as chief over all his wise men. 49At Daniel’s request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be in charge of all the affairs of the province of Babylon, while Daniel remained in the king’s court.

QUESTIONS:

1. In verse 1:8, what did Daniel do that made him different from everyone else? _____

2. According to verse 1:15, what was the effect of Daniel’s decision? _____

3. How did Daniel and his friends appear when compared to the other young men in the Kingdom? (v 1:20)

4. What can you do differently than those around you to honor God? _____

5. What do you think you can expect the Lord to do for you if you decide to honor God? _____

6. According to 2:46-49 what happened to the Kingdom as a result of Daniel’s example.

"THANK AND PRAISE YOU, GOD OF MY ANCESTORS, FOR YOU HAVE GIVEN ME WISDOM AND STRENGTH."



PROFILES IN BRAVERY: DANIEL

Daniel was such a strong example of bravery that he influenced four world leaders during his lifetime. Many more leaders have been influenced by his example throughout history.

THE KING'S IDOL

1King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. 2Then he sent messages to the high officers, officials, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the provincial officials to come to the dedication of the statue he had set up. 3So all these officials came and stood before the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4Then a herald shouted out, "People of all races and nations and languages, listen to the king's command! 5When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue. 6Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

7So at the sound of the musical instruments, all the people, whatever their race or nation or language, bowed to the ground and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

8But some of the astrologers went to the king and informed on the Jews. 9They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Long live the king! 10You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp,

pipes, and other musical instruments. 11That decree also states that those who refuse to obey must be thrown into a blazing furnace. 12But there are some Jews—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up."

13Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. When they were brought in, 14Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? 15I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?"

16Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. 17If 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. 18But 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."

THE BLAZING FURNACE

19Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. 20Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. 21So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments. 22And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in.

23So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell into the roaring flames. 24But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?"

"Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did," they replied.

25"Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!"

26Then Nebuchadnezzar



'THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE IS ABLE TO SAVE US. HE WILL RESCUE US FROM YOUR POWER!'

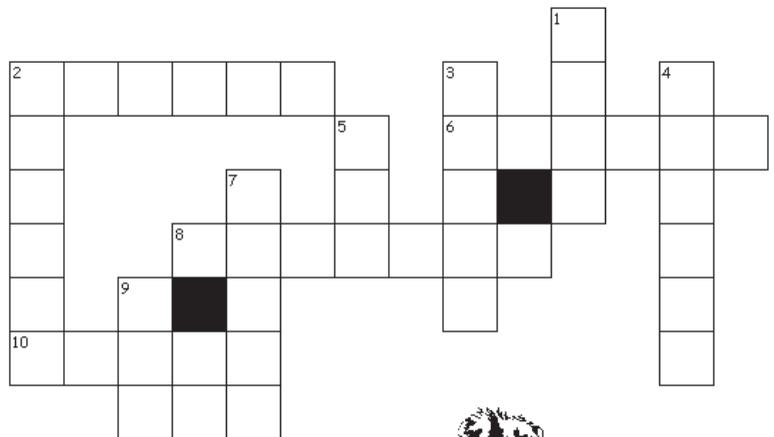
came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

"THERE IS NO OTHER GOD WHO CAN RESCUE LIKE THIS!"

So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire. 27Then the high officers, officials, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!

28Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. They defied the king's command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. 29Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this!"

30Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.



Across

- 2. Ruler of Babylon
- 6. In need of food
- 8. Secondary rulers of Babylon
- 10. Large, ferocious animals

Down

- 1. Ruler of a nation
- 2. He spent the night with the lions
- 3. Number of times our main character talked to the Lord each day
- 4. Talking to the Lord
- 5. An animal's home
- 7. Another word for believe
- 9. Person we cannot see but in whom we believe



BRAVERY COMES FROM INSIDE THE HEART

IT ALL STARTS IN THE HEART

As men, we like to fix things. We don't like to talk about it, think about, and share about it, we like to get our hands on it and fix it. We have an innate desire to fix things.

Here's where the problem lies; when we try to fix it, we often try in the wrong ways.

When we feel dissatisfied, we try to fix our surroundings; we try to do things differently, change the way we act, change the way we speak, and sometimes, change our location. We sometimes try new games, and new friends.

The truth has always been the same; it all begins and ends with our hearts. All problems begin in the heart and end in the heart. Jesus said:

And then he (Jesus) added, "It is what comes from inside that defiles you. For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you." (Mark 7:20-23)

The origins of all issues in our lives are issues of the heart. And if we want to change those

things, we must first change our hearts.

Our heart is a muscle in the center of our chest roughly the size of the fist. It beats, on average:

- **70 beats per minute.**
- **That's 4200 beats in an hour,**
- **100,000 beats in a day,**
- **36.5 million beats per year,**
- **2.6 billion times in the average life span.**

When our heart is sick or damaged, the rest of the body will be sick as well. When that heart stops, we step into eternity.

We've all been to a funeral and seen a loved one or friend's body lying in a casket. We also know that what we see is not the real "them," it's just the shell that is left behind.

The part of them that goes into eternity is the heart, or spirit that we are discussing now. It's the real person, the real essence of who we are as a man. It is an eternal heart.

This is the heart that the Bible talks so much about. It's what defines you and makes you a man. This is why it is the most important place to focus our attention.

King Solomon, billed as the wisest and richest man that ever lived, said it like this,

"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." (Proverbs 4:23)

**"BECAUSE
GOD HAS
MADE US FOR
HIMSELF,
OUR
HEARTS ARE
RESTLESS
UNTIL
THEY REST
IN HIM."**

--AUGUSTINE

4 KEY VERSES

AND THEN HE (JESUS) ADDED, "IT IS WHAT COMES FROM INSIDE THAT DEFILES YOU." (MARK 7:20-23)

"GUARD YOUR HEART ABOVE ALL ELSE, FOR IT DETERMINES THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE." (PROVERBS 4:23)

IF YOU FORGIVE THE SINS OF ANY, THEY ARE FORGIVEN THEM; IF YOU RETAIN THE SINS OF ANY, THEY ARE RETAINED." (JOHN 20:23-25)

AND I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW HEART, AND I WILL PUT A NEW SPIRIT IN YOU. I WILL TAKE OUT YOUR STONY, STUBBORN HEART AND GIVE YOU A TENDER, RESPONSIVE HEART. 27 AND I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT IN YOU SO THAT YOU WILL FOLLOW MY DECREES AND BE CAREFUL TO OBEY MY REGULATIONS. (EZEKIEL 36: 26,27)

KEEP GOING, CHAMPION!

I

IT ALL
STARTS IN
THE HEART

II

GUARDING
YOUR
HEART

III

YOUR HEART
NEEDS TO
FORGIVE & TO
BE FORGIVEN

IV

A NEW
HEART

**FOUR
KEY
POINTS**

A SHOCKING AND UNFORGETTABLE STORY ABOUT THE HEART

A friend once shared this story with me about David Livingstone, the great missionary explorer of the late 1800's:

From his age of earliest remembrance, David Livingstone would sit upon his father's knee and hear stories about Africa, the Dark Continent. From his knee, he could almost smell the smoke of campfires rising above the grass rooftops of a thousand villages and envision the dense and un-

charted jungles. He could taste the spray of cascading waterfalls over massive heights and he knew that one day he would take the good news of Jesus Christ to Africa. It became his passion and his destiny.

The day would finally come. Twenty years later, now married, David Livingstone embarked on his missionary journey of exploration. He immediately began charting and evangelizing, village-by-village throughout the hostile country. Through great personal sacrifice and imminent danger, the gospel began to illuminate the darkest

regions as this fiery evangelist pursued those lost and blinded by centuries of demonic oppression.

Through villages and jungles, he relentlessly traveled proclaiming salvation through the Name of Jesus.

Often caught between tribal wars and skirmishes, he narrowly avoided harm. In one such flight, while running for his life in the dead of night...

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

WHAT HAS YOUR HEART?

...IT ALL STARTS IN THE HEART

...his eye was lost as he ran into a protruding tree branch in the darkness. But even without the benefit of two eyes, his spiritual vision saw a nation that needed the message of freedom in Christ. David endured great hardship. Natives and wild animals often attacked him. During one such attack, a wild lion mauled his shoulder.

The years of exposure to the sun had so darkened his now leathery skin and the jungle had so marred his countenance that when he returned to England for a visit, many did not recognise him, save for his voice as he spoke.

After visiting England, he returned to Africa for many subsequent expeditions with greater focus and greater determination to preach the Gospel. As time continued, David himself contracted a deadly disease. David cried out to the Lord and said, "I will not leave again. If you want me to live, send medicine."

Some weeks later an Englishman appeared in Africa from England to interview the man so revered as the missionary explorer of Africa. He began to tell Mr. Livingston that he was a swaggering atheist and there was no need in trying to convert him and, for some reason, he was supposed to bring him medicine. With the medicine he needed, David continued from village to village preaching and seeing many delivered from the bondage of sin to which all men without Christ are subject.

His condition grew graver as the years passed by. His body was now

failing, yet his spirit and relentless desire continued to press on. Eventually he would have to be carried on a litter from village to village where he would prop himself up and preach to the conversion of his hearers. Exhausted yet undaunted, David Livingston was confronted by one of his servants by his bedside. "You must rest Mr. Livingston, you must sleep!" "No." David Livingston replied, "I must pray for Africa. Please prop me up by my bed to pray."

Hours later, the servant returned to check on his leader. To his amazement, David Livingston had died on his knees, praying for the country that he had given his entire life and strength to evangelise.

The tribal leaders gathered from all areas of the continent to honor this great general of God. They ceremonially wrapped and decorated his body and began a relay to hand carry his body, on a litter, to the coast where an awaiting vessel would carry him back to his homeland for burial.

As the procession reached the shore, those Englishmen waiting to carry his body home were shocked as one of the tribal leaders took out a great knife and cut into the chest of David Livingston. "What are these savages doing?" cried the Englishmen. The Chiefs replied as they cut out something from his chest, "His body may belong to England, but his heart belongs to AFRICA!"

**“GUARD YOUR HEART ABOVE ALL ELSE,
FOR IT DETERMINES THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE.”**

(PROVERBS 4:23)

**"IF YOU HAVE MEN WHO
WILL ONLY COME IF
THEY KNOW THERE IS
A GOOD ROAD,
I DON'T WANT THEM.
I WANT MEN WHO WILL
COME IF THERE IS
NO ROAD AT ALL."**



- DR. DAVID LIVINGSTONE

**WHEN WE DIE, WHERE WILL THEY BURY OUR HEARTS,
SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING?**

Every part of who you are begins and ends in your heart. You can change many things about your life. Where you live, how you look, who your friends are, but until you change your heart, you make no lasting change.

If you want to change your life, change your heart. Because our hearts are the most important part of us, we have to focus on our hearts before anything else. The heart is also the most important part of us because it is intended to be the dwelling place of God.

KEEP GOING, CHAMPION!

GUARD YOUR HEART

In the last point we brought out one verse that commands us to guard our hearts. It is:

“GUARD YOUR HEART ABOVE ALL ELSE, FOR IT DETERMINES THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE.”

(PROVERBS 4:23)

Like a soldier guarding his position from hostile enemy forces, it is important that we guard our core, our heart.

Forces that would seek to destroy us are always trying to besiege our hearts. The walls are impenetrable, but the gates are weak. Therefore, we have to guard the gates of our hearts to ensure our castle is strong and unconquerable.

THE EYE GATE

The eyes are the gate entrance to your heart. You can control what gets into your heart by what you allow your eyes to see.

Your body is like a strong castle or fortress that contains your soul and spirit.

There are forces that would like to get inside your fortress and destroy what's inside. Your job as a courageous man of Honor is to guard the precious things inside, like your heart, your soul, and your spirit. The only place an enemy may come in is by a gate:

Lust is a formidable enemy to our hearts. It can infect and consume our hearts if we are not careful. We were made as very visual creatures. Jesus told us that our eyes are the gates to the soul. If we want to guard our souls, we must guard our eyes.

Unfortunately, this is the weakest gate of our castle. Fortunately, we have control of the gate. The enemies of lust and addiction can sneak in if we don't immediately shut this gate during time of attack. One

of the practical ways to close the eye gate is to purpose in your heart not to look at things you know will allow the wrong things in.

Refuse to stay on a TV channel that has improper images. Refuse to look at pornography on your computer, phone, or anywhere. But what can you do about those things that bombard the eye gate without your consent? Here's what we recommend:

THE TWO-LOOK RULE:

It is impossible not to see beautiful girls. The first time they cross your vision, there is nothing you can do about it. Immediately your mind will say, Wow! Did you see that?

But the trouble begins when your mind says, "Look back at her again!" Here is where you have the power of choice. You can look again and start the lust engine or you can make a promise, like Job did, and not look a second time. It's when you dwell on an image that it gets access to your heart. Stop lust before it gets into your heart.

GUARD YOUR EYES, GUARD YOUR HEART.

THE EYES ARE THE GATE ENTRANCE TO YOUR HEART.

YOU CAN CONTROL WHAT GETS INTO YOUR HEART BY WHAT YOU ALLOW YOUR EYES TO SEE.

YOUR BODY IS LIKE A STRONG CASTLE OR FORTRESS THAT CONTAINS YOUR SOUL AND SPIRIT.

THERE ARE FORCES THAT WOULD LIKE TO GET INSIDE YOUR FORTRESS AND DESTROY WHAT'S INSIDE.

YOUR JOB AS A COURAGEOUS MAN OF HONOR IS TO GUARD THE PRECIOUS THINGS INSIDE, LIKE YOUR HEART, YOUR SOUL, AND YOUR SPIRIT.

THE ONLY PLACE AN ENEMY MAY COME IN IS BY A GATE.

THE EAR GATE

Discouragement and depression can come in like a flood if we allow the voices to get in through our ear gates. Music, like computer programming can get a foothold into our thought life. We must not allow negative voices to get in our ears. We guard this by watching over and stopping bad influences coming in through the music we listen to and the words of people that we allow to speak into our lives. It's OK to say, "My ears are not trash cans in which you may put your trash."

ALLOW WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND COMPLIMENTS TO ENTER YOUR HEART, BRING IN THE THINGS THAT WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR HEART, REJECT THE THINGS THAT SEEK TO WEAKEN YOUR HEART. DO THIS AND BE STRONG.

YOUR HEART NEEDS TO FORGIVE, AND TO BE FORGIVEN

One of the surest ways to poison your heart and stunt your spiritual growth as a man is to refuse to forgive someone.

Like a poison, unforgiveness will stop you dead in your tracks and keep you in an arrested state. Someone once said that refusing to forgive is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die. Unforgiveness can also keep you out of heaven. It's just that serious.

When you refuse to forgive someone of a sin, you attach the sin to your heart and it stays there until you forgive. Many men are carrying a great load of sin because of unforgiveness. Jesus said it like this,

If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:23-25 NKJV)

Forgiveness releases sin out of our lives, unforgiveness retains or binds sin to us.

The way that a sin is passed from one generation to the next is through unforgiven sin. The best way and the only way to avoid passing sin from fathers to sons is to forgive and release sin out of the heart.

Forgiveness doesn't mean that you think what they did is O.K. It simple means that you choose to release it out of your life. It means that you want to obey God and have a strong heart more than you want to get revenge. After all, God is willing to forgive us for anything and everything. Shouldn't we be at least willing to forgive someone for something?

NEXT, WE NEED TO BE FORGIVEN

There is only one way that sin can come out of your life. It can only come out of your mouth, as you confess your sin to God and ask for His forgiveness. Fortunately, God wants to forgive us more that we want to be forgiven. He made a way by sending his Son to become sin and be punished for our sin, so that we don't have to be punished.

Romans 3:23 tells us that: "All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God"

Romans 6:23 tells us that: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus."

And to prove how "gung-ho" God is about forgiving you, He took the first step:

"But God demonstrated His love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Also, it does not matter who you are or what you've done. He promised that if we confess our sins, He would forgive them by saying:

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." (1 John 1:9)

God's gift of a new heart is a gift waiting to be accepted. The only way a man can receive a new heart is by allowing God to take away his old heart and give him a new one. He (The LORD) promises:

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations. (Ezekiel 36: 26,27)

You can accept the free gift by stopping right now and asking God to give you a new heart.

He sent His son Jesus to pay for our sins and wash us clean again.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

In Jewish Tradition, a boy is considered to be “ready for Manhood” at 13 years of age where he attends his “Bar-Mitzvah” and becomes a son of the law.

Whether you are 11 or 19, YOU ARE A MAN!

“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

Because you are young doesn’t mean you can’t be a powerful man.

{Being a male is a matter of birth, but being a man is a matter of choice.}

In most cases, it has been young people that God has chosen to carry out His great adventures. For example,

- David was around 15 when he killed Goliath and cut off his

head.

- Mary was around 15 when God told her she would carry the Saviour of the world.
 - Josiah was 8 when he became king and chose to honor God.
 - Joseph was 17 when God gave him a dream that would become his destiny.
 - Daniel was a pre-teen when he made a stand for God.
 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were teenagers when they decided not to bow to false gods.
 - Jesus was 12 when they found him in the temple discussing scripture and proclaiming, “didn’t you know that I would be about my Father’s business?”
- Being young actually has great advantages. You have energy and strength. Use it, make it count for God. Turn that energy into manly, courageous, power.

“BEING A MALE IS A MATTER OF BIRTH, BUT BEING A MAN IS A MATTER OF CHOICE.”

When you make a commitment to serve Jesus, and give Him your heart, share it with your leader/mentor.

KEEP GOING, CHAMPION!