



Discussion Guide
Encounters – Part 7
PARTICIPANT GUIDE



“Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every other virtue at the testing point.”
[C S Lewis]

ENGAGE & CONNECT ||

What is a piece of encouragement you’ve received?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER ||

Lord, we all need to be encouraged in some way. Please draw close and stoke the fires of our hearts to acts of courage. Forge us and make us stronger, as we know You are near. Amen.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE ||

“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]

BIG IDEA ||

In the presence of God, there is encouragement for real life and in real time.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION ||

1. What encouragement did Joshua need in this moment? What are some of the instructions he received?
2. What did Joshua need to be strong and courageous for?
3. Do you prefer to look back or look ahead? What makes people gravitate to one or the other, do you think?
4. What are some ways your past shows up in your present?
5. If God’s encouragement is less about relief, relaxation, and return to normal, then what lesser encouragements have you been receiving?
6. If God had already given Joshua the land, why was it literally years of work for them to take it?
7. What hard thing could you do if God were with you like He was with Moses?
8. How is your soul?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE ||

Possess some *holy stubbornness*.

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) Where has fear lessened your God-given courage to go forth and obey? 2) Who is someone you need to seek out for encouragement or to give encouragement to? We could all use a little more of God's encouragement in our lives!

PRAYER FOCUS ||

"Lord, I pray that we have been encouraged today. Send us out with encouraging messages to share with those around us, to lift the spirits of one person and urge them to be strong and courageous, to stand firm in Your word this week. Amen."