

# COURAGE FOR YOUR CALLING

*Joshua 1:1–9*

## THIS WEEK'S SERMON

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In his first sermon at Eastside, Dave drew from [Joshua 1:1–9](#) to challenge the church — and each of us personally — to have **courage for our calling**. With a leadership transition underway, God's word to Joshua speaks directly into our moment: the mission hasn't changed, and neither has the God who leads it. Three invitations anchored the message — **Remember who's in charge**, **Recommit to the mission**, and **Read the Book**. Courage doesn't ultimately come from strategy or certainty about the future; it comes from trusting the God who was faithful then and is faithful now.

## GETTING STARTED

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**Icebreaker:** Think of a time you stepped into something new or uncertain — a job, a move, a relationship. What gave you the courage to take that first step? Or, what held you back?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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**1. Dave opened by reminding us that while leadership changes, “God's not changing. The promise hasn't changed. The mission hasn't changed.” Where in your own life do you tend to confuse a changing season with a changing God, promise or mission?**

**Scripture:** [Hebrews 13:8](#) — Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

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**2. The message used the image of a police car in the rearview mirror — when you're driving, pull over. When it's your mother-in-law driving, it's "not your car, not your problem." What area of your life could you more genuinely live like the future belongs to God and not to you?**

**Scripture:** [Psalm 46:10](#) — "Be still, and know that I am God."

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**3. God gave Joshua a clear, specific mission: lead the people to inherit the land. Dave pointed to [Acts 1:8](#) and [Matthew 28:19–20](#) as Eastside's mission. How clearly can you name the mission God has given you — in your family, your workplace, or your community? Try and articulate it to each other.**

**Scripture:** [Matthew 28:19–20](#) — The Great Commission — go, make disciples, baptize, teach.

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**4. Dave's message drew a sharp contrast between studying a cake recipe and actually baking the cake. God ties Joshua's success not to courage alone, but to doing what the Book says (Joshua 1:7–8). What's one area where you've been studying or singing about**

the Bible but haven't yet done what it says? Inwardly survey your relationships, your impact on those who do not know Jesus, and your personal habits before answering.

**Scripture:** [James 1:22](#) — Be doers of the word, not just hearers.

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**5. Dave closed with Joshua 1:9 — "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Where do you most need to hear that promise right now — and what is one step of courage you sense God is calling you to take this week that you can receive prayer from the group for?**


**Scripture:** [Joshua 1:9](#) — The anchor verse of the entire message — God's presence as the ground of courage.


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### THIS WEEK'S THREE CHALLENGES

 **Remember who's in charge:** Make a list of moments God has shown up for you. Pull it out when the future feels heavy.

 **Recommit to the mission:** Name one person God is placing on your heart. Take the next step — pray for them and invite them to church.

 **Read the Book:** One chapter. One thing. Every day. Read it, find one thing God is asking you to do — and do it.

### CLOSING PRAYER

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Close your time together by praying through these areas as a group:

- Thank God that He is in charge — of your church, your family, and your future — and that the same God who led Joshua leads you today.
- Ask for fresh courage to recommit to the mission: to be a witness, to make disciples, to invite the person on your heart.
- Pray for a hunger to not just read but do what God's Word says — and for specific obedience this week.
- Ask God to fill every member of your group with the promise of Joshua 1:9 — that He will be with you wherever you go.

**Note to Group Leaders:** *This week's sermon was delivered by Eastside's incoming lead pastor in his first message to the congregation — a significant moment for the church. Feel free to open with a brief time of sharing what this transition means for your group and how you can pray for the new pastor and leadership team as they step in.*