



# Near and Now

*Why My Calling Requires Courage – Joshua*

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## **Warm Up Question**

*When have you lacked the power to overcome an obstacle? Talk about it.*

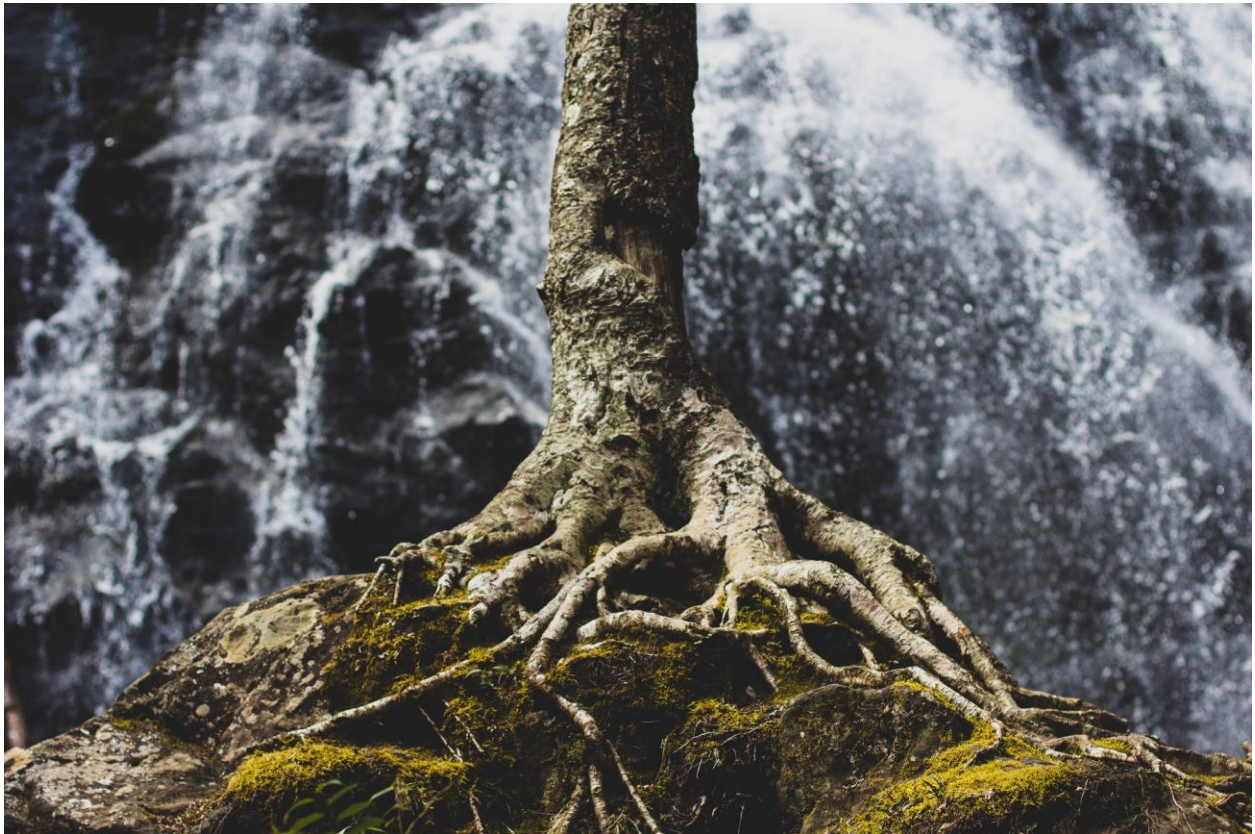


Photo by Zach Reiner on [Unsplash](#)

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What do you see in this image?
2. What do you feel looking at this image?
3. What stories from your own life does this image bring to mind?
4. What stories of the world does this image bring to mind?

## **Be Strong and Courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed**

Read [Joshua 1:1-10](#)

### **Bible Story Reflection**

Joshua, a faithful servant of God, faced an enormous responsibility as he stepped into the role of leading the Israelites after Moses. The shoes he had to fill were undoubtedly daunting, and the weight of his new calling could have easily overwhelmed him. However, in the midst of his fears and uncertainties, God's repeated command echoed to Joshua's heart: "Be strong and courageous."

God knew that Joshua needed constant reminders to stay grounded in faith and purpose. Joshua's strength and courage were not to be found in his own abilities or qualifications but in his unwavering trust in God's promises and guidance. God wanted Joshua to understand that success in his new task hinged upon his obedience to God's Word and his reliance on divine wisdom rather than his own limited understanding.

In a world filled with distractions and uncertainties, Joshua serves as an example of the importance of staying grounded in the Word of God. By immersing himself in scripture, Joshua would gain clarity and direction, finding the courage to navigate the challenges that lay before him. The command to be strong and courageous was not merely a pep talk; it was a reminder that Joshua's true source of strength lay in his deep-rooted faith and reliance on God's Word to guide his every step.

As we reflect on Joshua's journey, we too can draw lessons for our own lives. Like Joshua, we are called to stay grounded in the Word of God, seeking guidance and wisdom to navigate the paths before us. By immersing ourselves in the bible, we discover the courage and strength to face any obstacle that comes our way. May Joshua's example inspire us to be strong, courageous, and unwavering in our faith, knowing that God's Word is our steadfast compass in life's uncertain journey.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. In what ways can you identify with Joshua?
2. How do you connect to the concept of a tree being planted by the water?
3. In what way do you think being rooted/grounded in something can improve one's life?
4. What are some challenges or fears that you believe Joshua might have faced?
5. How do you think Joshua found the courage to overcome his fears and fulfill his calling?
6. Talk about a time you needed to be reminded to stay grounded in faith/purpose?
7. In what ways do you find the courage or strength to face obstacles in your life?
8. What are some specific ways we can stay rooted in God's Word and draw strength from Him?

## Activity Suggestions

In Joshua chapter 1 verse 8, God tells Joshua to keep the book of law on his lips and meditate day and night. Today, pick the verse out of the bible that reminds you to be strong like the tree planted by the water.

- Find a quiet place to sit and set a timer for 5-10 minutes to meditate on your courageous verse.
- Plant a seed of faith - engage in a gardening activity and keep your bible verse in mind as you complete the task.
- Share your bible verse with someone and explain to them how it encourages you to be strong in your purpose.

## Prayer concerns

Those struggling to find the courage to follow their purpose, facing daunting obstacles and those seeking deep-rooted faith.

## Closing Prayer

When the way is hard and the path is frightening, fill me with courage, O God. In the name of +Jesus, Amen.

