

WOULD YOU ...



- Admit you supported a different football team if all your mates supported your team's bitter rivals?
- Tell you parents if you knew your older brother was lying to them about where he was going out in the evening?
- Let your best friend copy your homework if you had spent hours doing it the night before and given up watching your favourite TV programme to do it?
- Join in with your mates and take the mick out of the homeless man in town?
- Tell your mates you go to church even if none of them do?
- Jump in a river to save a drowning dog?
- Try to stop a big fight between a big group of strong men?
- Eat a worm?
- Give a whole month's pocket money to charity?
- Stand up for an issue you care about?

COURAGE



STEVIE BULL

Heroic police officer risked her own life to tackle a man brandishing a gun at terrified nurses in a hospital ward



BEN HEDGER

Hero schoolboy steered car across dual carriageway, after his mum collapsed at the wheel at 65mph



HEZRON BROWN

Overcame a life of crime and homelessness to help steer thousands of young people away from gangs and violence

These people were all awarded a Pride of Britain award for courage in 2019. You can read more about them (and others who have received an award for courage) here:

<https://www.prideofbritain.com/history/2019>

- *What do you think about the examples of courage?*
- *Where do you think these people got their courage from?*
- *Have you ever done anything courageous?*

The Chinese doctor who tried to warn others about coronavirus

By Stephanie Hegarty
Population Correspondent

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Coronavirus pandemic



Dr Li posted this picture of himself from a hospital bed on 31 January - a day before he was diagnosed with coronavirus

Chinese doctor Li Wenliang contracted coronavirus while working at Wuhan Central Hospital. He **tried to issue the first warning about the deadly coronavirus outbreak.** He had sent out a warning to fellow medics on 30 December but police told him to stop "making false comments".

You can read about his story here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-51364382>

In what way were his actions courageous?

Think of others who are working to save lives and protect people at the moment. How are they showing courage?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT COURAGE?

There are lots of examples of courageous people in the Bible.

Rahab protected the Israelite spies because she trusted in God. (Joshua 2)

David, a boy, fought against the giant Goliath, trusting that God would not let him down. (1 Samuel 17)

Stephen was killed for telling the truth about Jesus. (Acts 7)

These people weren't courageous in their own strength. They could be courageous – even facing death - because of what they knew about God.

Rahab **KNEW THAT GOD WAS STRONG**

David **KNEW THAT GOD WOULDN'T LET HIM DOWN**

Stephen **KNEW THAT GOD WAS WITH HIM**

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT COURAGE?

Moses had led the Israelites through the wilderness for 40 years. They could have gone into the land God had promised them many years previously, but they had been afraid of the people who were living there. Before Moses died he spoke these words to all the Israelites:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:6



What does this verse tell us about where people who trust in God should find their courage?

What does it tell us about God and why should this be an encouragement for a Christian as they face circumstances that require courage?

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Listen to the song ‘Whatever Comes’ by the Rend Collective

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP_EyBhjFXI). Take some time to think about where you need God’s help to be courageous over the coming days.

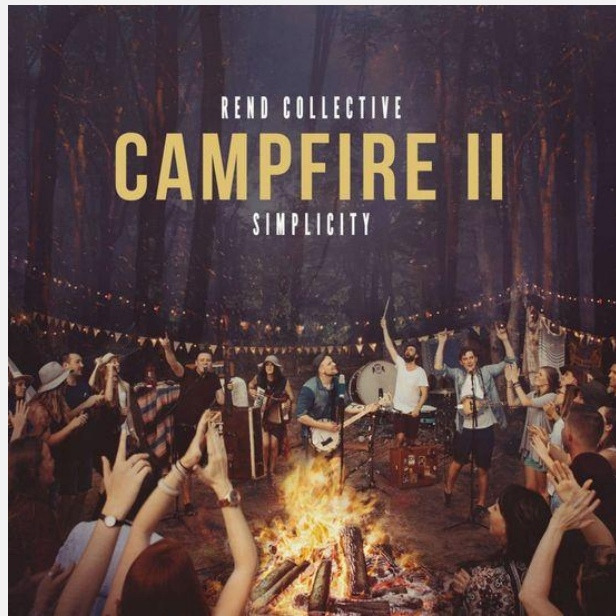
Father God

Thank you for those who have shown great courage throughout history. Thank you for those who are acting with courage to treat the sick and help the vulnerable at the moment. Please protect them.

Thank you for those who have shown courage, trusting you, to stand up for the truth of the gospel. Help us to trust in your strength when we lack courage, in whatever circumstance.

Thank you that you are with us in all situations; you never leave us or forsake us.

Amen



Lord, whatever comes
Make me steadfast, make me rooted
A cedar planted firm, deeply grounded in Your goodness
Whatever comes

Lord, whatever comes
Be my bedrock, keep me steady
Loyal to Your throne, whatever stands against me
Whatever comes

*Be my bravery when I am trembling
Be my courage when my heart is caving in
Be the fireside when I am wandering
Be my Father, whatever comes*

Lord, whatever comes
Be my soul, be strong as iron
Bending only when, when I kneel before the "I Am"
Whatever comes

Rend Collective