



Courageous influence

LEADER GUIDE FOR COURAGEOUS INFLUENCE

Dear Leader Friends,

We are so grateful you are linking arms with us to learn more about *Courageous Influence*. As Grace P. Cho unpacks in this study, influence is the capacity to affect change in people. We were all made to have influence! But the question is, how we are going to steward that influence? This study will guide you on the journey of living the impact you were made to have. Let's turn the world's idea of influence on its head and become the courageous women of influence God calls us to be.

As a facilitator of this Bible study, you have a special opportunity to encourage and lead others into a deeper understanding of Scripture and relationship with Jesus Christ. **Don't worry about teaching; the workbook and videos will do that.** Your role is to invite your group into reflection and conversation about what God is teaching them. In other words, we want you to go on the journey with them.

Get to know the people in your group. Where are they coming from? Where are they in their faith journey? Give the women time to respond thoughtfully and apply the questions to their current contexts.

We have intentionally provided different types of questions in this guide. Some questions are more straightforward and will help put group members at ease so they can participate. Some of the questions in this study may challenge the women in your group. They might have to step out of their comfort zones to share. We hope you will **model this by "going first"** and sharing honestly from your own life. This will set the tone so group members will feel free and safe to participate.

When you find that women have not had time to complete the homework, **offer them grace.** There are all kinds of reasons people cannot get to the homework. Continue to gently encourage them to carve out time daily to complete the study. We encourage you to read the passages aloud in your group and then answer the questions together to help guide group members if they are new to Bible study or didn't get to the questions.

We also want to encourage you to **take time to meditate on the key Scripture together** each week. You might suggest the women write these out and read them throughout the week or recite them aloud when you are together. Many believe they are not good at memorizing but some encouragement from you goes a long way to helping them meditate on God's Word.

Be creative, friend! You have the freedom to make this study your own.

Thank you for partnering with us in the Gospel. We're so expectant for what God is going to do in and through your shared time studying what His Word says about embracing your courageous influence.

For His Glory,
Your friends at (in)courage

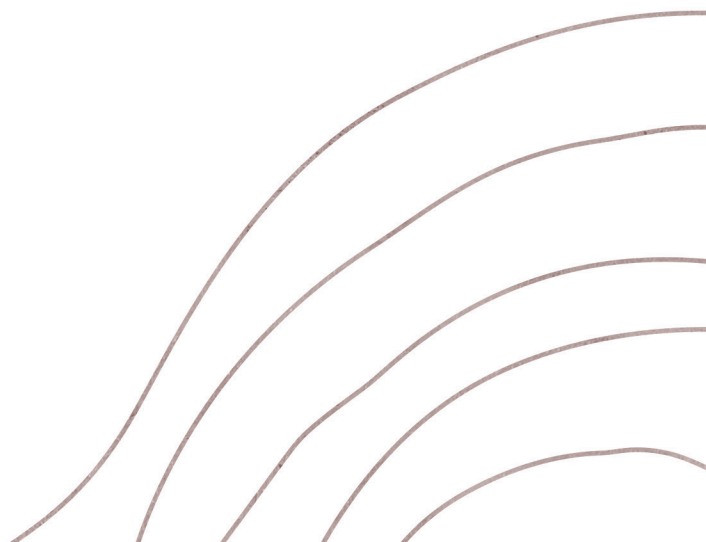
AS YOU LEAD

Courageous Influence is a great study for small group use. We recommend allowing at least 45-60 minutes for discussion and group time. Keep groups small enough so that you can really dig in deep.

We know each group situation will be unique. Some of you may be meeting with one or two friends, while others might be gathering a group of 8-10 women from your church or neighborhood. Whether you're meeting online or coming together in a home or around a table, we encourage you to make this time meaningful. Pay attention to the unique needs of the group. Never underestimate the power of praying for discernment as you lead. The Holy Spirit can and will guide you along the way!

Here are some quick tips for leading discussion groups:

1. Choose the length of time to meet and communicate the dates with your group. This will help people plan ahead and know the commitment from the start.
2. Carve out some time for your group to get to know each other. Remind them about confidentiality. Ask God to give you a genuine love and sensitivity toward each member.
3. When you meet, focus on main themes and how God is working in individual hearts.
4. Model authenticity and vulnerability for your group.
5. Invite women to the discussion even if they haven't finished the homework.
6. Sometimes a woman might dominate the conversation. You might give her a job to help you or enlist her help to get others to participate.
7. Ask questions and allow for silence to engage the quieter women or women who need some time to process.
8. If someone shares something deep and personal, even emotional, take time to look them in the eye and thank them for taking that risk and sharing.
9. Resist the urge to counsel women; instead, pray for them.
10. Challenge women to meditate on and memorize Scripture during this season.



ICEBREAKER SUGGESTIONS

Have fun and be creative on how you break the ice with your group each week. You might consider asking a simple question like “What made an impact on you from the study or video teaching this week?”


The following are some icebreaker questions that might help you get to know your group members. You could ask one at the start of each meeting. You might also search online for icebreaker games for small groups or be inventive and make your own. **The idea is to help get to know the women in your group, to build trust and deeper connections.**

1. How many languages can you speak?
2. What's your middle name and can you share a story about its significance?
3. What's your favorite afternoon snack?
4. Where did you grow up and how did that shape you?
5. Do you have a favorite hobby that brings you joy?
6. Are you a listener or a talker?
7. What job did you dream of having as a child?
8. Describe your dream vacation if money wasn't an issue.
9. What talent would you most like to grow and develop?
10. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

WEEKLY DISCUSSION OUTLINES

The following are outlines for you to use for your group time each week. If possible, **start by watching the weekly video together**, available at incourage.me/biblestudy. **Process** the question from the video together before moving into **discussion** of the lessons. Conclude with a time of prayer approximately 10-15 minutes. Try to encourage your group to focus in on the **prayer** points for the day. You might consider having members pray for themselves and let others agree with them in prayer or share around the circle if you have time.

Again, let the Spirit lead you! Use everything in this outline or camp out on one or two questions if that's what your group needs on a particular week. May God bless you as you partner with Him!



WEEK 1: ME? A WOMAN OF INFLUENCE?

Process together:

What are some examples you've seen in your life of women living out their influence?

Discuss:

1. Read Philippians 2:1-18. As you read, pay attention to the setup of the passage—how it first shows who Christ is and then who we should be in light of who He is. What words stand out to you? What's the correlation between this passage and Matthew 5:13-16? (p. 16)
2. How have you felt the pressure to hustle and make something of yourself? How does that kind of striving affect the way you view yourself, whether or not you're successful? (p. 21)
3. Read Joshua 2:1-13 together. How is Rahab an example of someone who might've been considered "insignificant and despised" but whom God used to make a way for His people? (p. 22)
4. In light of Aliza Latta's story in Day 4, where have you most felt the pull to compare yourself with others in your life? (p. 33)
5. Read through the spiritual gifts Paul lists in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, 27-31. Share some of the gifts you have or are currently cultivating. (Encourage the women in your group to explore their giftings in this season.) (p. 40)

Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for making you a woman of influence. Ask Him to show you areas in your life He would like you to grow. Ask Him to open doors to influence others for His glory.

Meditate:

"... you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."

—1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)



WEEK 2: NOT POSITION, BUT PLACE AND A WILLING YES

Process together:

The word obedience is key in this week's study. What comes to mind when you think about that word and how it relates to influence or courage?

Discuss:

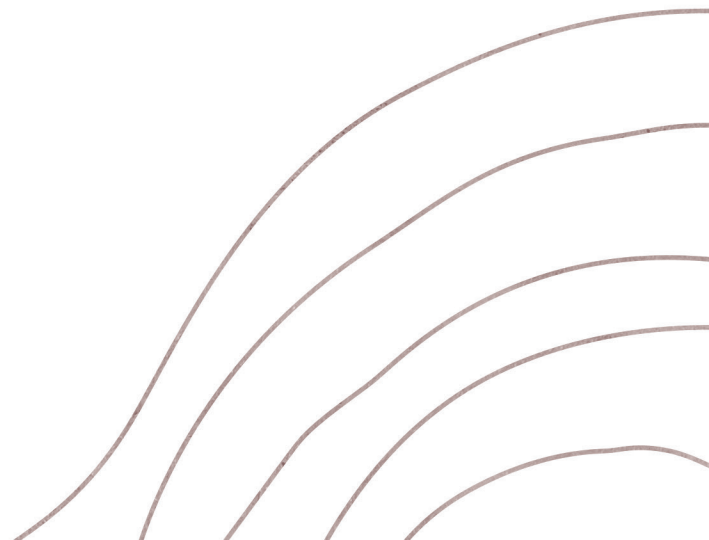
1. Read Philippians 2:5-8. How does humility tie into love and action? (p. 47)
2. The influence we have in someone's life often comes down to our words—which ones we use, the timing of them, the tone we have. Is there a specific situation in your life right now in which it is the right time for you to speak up? Share a little about that so the group can pray for you. (p. 54)
3. Have you ever received a clear direction from God but struggled with doubt? What made it hard for you to trust God's word or plan? (p. 60)
4. Death before life is the way of Jesus, and so it is the pattern for our life in Him as well. A baby being born is a great example of a death-to-life pattern. Read John 3:1-17. What do you think it means to be born again? (p. 66) How is an understanding of this concept key to our influence?
5. You are a favored, chosen woman. How does believing this give you courage to do what God is asking of you today? (p. 74)

Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for choosing you and many other women in Scripture to carry influence. Ask God to help you to trust Him and obey when He prompts you to step out in your influence.

Meditate:

"And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you."
—Luke 1:28



WEEK 3: BE A PERSON OF INTEGRITY

Process together:

What does it look like for you to show up fully as yourself and not like anyone else in your places of influence?

Discuss:

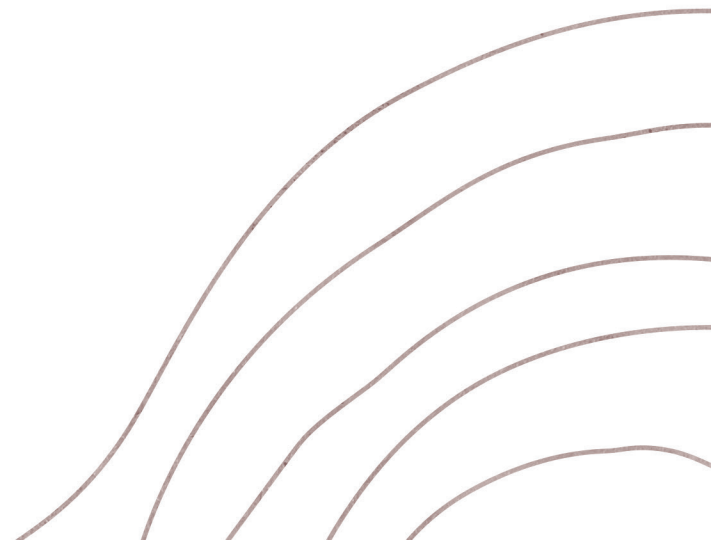
1. Read Matthew 23:29-36 together. What are some of the inconsistencies Jesus is calling out in the Pharisees? As you read about the Pharisees, what inconsistencies might God be asking you to address in your own life? (p. 79)
2. David armed himself with his slingshot and the assurance that God was with him. What unique tools (skills, experiences, or talents) has the Lord given you to influence others just as you are? (p. 87)
3. Have you experienced someone close to you doubting your gifts or purpose in life? How did that make you feel? (p. 92)
4. Read 2 Timothy 1:7 together. What does having a spirit of power and not fear mean to you? (p. 98)
5. Since the power of our influence comes from within, as evidenced in Timothy 1:7, how does that change the focus and/or motivation of your efforts in building influence with others? (p. 100)
6. Think about the last time you felt like an impostor. What were the surrounding circumstances, and why did you feel that way? (p. 104) What are some of the ways you can pivot away from imposter syndrome and toward the truth of your identity in Christ?

Prayer Prompts:

Praise God for inviting you to the things that feel impossible. Ask Him to help you stretch and grow. Thank Him for trusting you to impact others for His glory

Meditate:

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.”
—2 Timothy 1:7



WEEK 4: BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR INFLUENCE

Process together:

Keeping the parable of the farmer and the seeds in mind, why is it important for us to scatter—or be generous—with our influence?

Discuss:

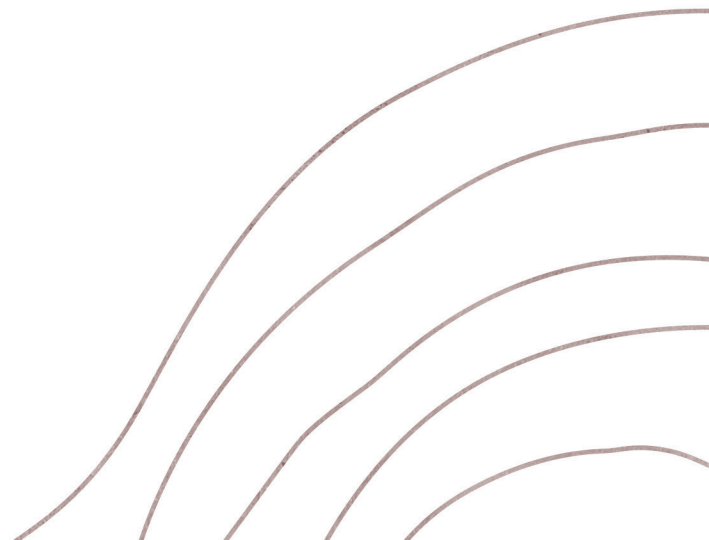
1. Think about the people in your own sphere and the various spheres you travel in—perhaps your children’s school, like Bonnie Gray shared in her story, or your workplace, or your own family. How might you sow seeds of the gospel in those places? (p. 116)
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–26. How have you experienced the beauty of the body of Christ in motion? (Note: it doesn’t have to be in a church setting.) (p. 123)
3. It takes wisdom to know when to lean in and give others generous access to our influence when we’re struggling ourselves. When was a time you felt you had no more to give but relied on God to give you the energy to pour into someone else? (p. 130)
4. Read Matthew 6:26–34 together. What are some of the ways God has provided generously for you? (p. 136)
5. In what areas of life or in what situations can you be generous with your influence, your presence, or your skills without expecting anything in return? (p. 137)

Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for His abundant provision in your life. Ask Him to help you courageously offer your influence to others even when there’s no immediate reward.

Meditate:

“The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.”
—2 Corinthians 9:6



WEEK 5: BE INTENTIONAL WITH YOUR INFLUENCE

Process together:

What has your experience been with discipleship? How have intentionality, invitation, and intimacy been an important part of discipleship for you?

Discuss:

1. Read Luke 5:1-11 for a detailed description of how Jesus called His first disciples. If you were one of them, what would be your response to Jesus's invitation and why? (p. 150)
2. What role have relationships played in your experience of church (either when you were growing up or in your current life stage)? (p. 154)
3. Read Acts 2:42-47 and Hebrews 10:23-25 together. How did the early church actively live out their faith? (p. 156)
4. As you consider investing in another person, it might feel intimidating to know how to start the conversation. What are some questions you could use to help get the conversation going. For example, what has God been showing you lately about Himself? (p. 163)
5. Mark 1:22 tells us that, unlike the other religious teachers, Jesus spoke with authority. Knowing that you have the same authority in you because of Christ, how does it change the way you view your authority to disciple others? (p. 167)

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God to help you see discipleship with new eyes and to have courage to love those around you. Thank Him for giving you authority and anointing through Jesus Christ.

Meditate:

“Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.”

—John 15:4



WEEK 6: TELL YOUR STORY

Process together:

Throughout the Bible, there is an emphasis on telling what God has done. Why do you think that is? In other words, why is telling our stories so important?

Discuss:

1. As you reflect on the stories God has written in your life, what perspectives are unique to you? For example, it could be growing up overseas, being biracial, or living with an unseen disability. (p. 184)
2. The story of Zacchaeus has some similarities to the story of Mary Magdalene's encounter with Jesus after His resurrection. Read Luke 19:1-5 and John 20:11-16. What similarities do you see in the two stories? (p. 188)
3. Read 1 Samuel 7:7-13 together. What is the significance of the stone of Ebenezer? What kind of Ebenezers do you have? (p. 194)
4. Psalm 34:18 says God is near to the brokenhearted. How have you seen God in your worst or most painful seasons of life. How has he used those painful seasons to empower you to influence others? (p. 201)
5. In what ways have you found the phrase "for such a time as this" relevant to you? (p. 204)

Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for creating you for such a time as this. Ask Him for courage to use your voice and influence for the sake of others. Praise Him for His love and grace.

Meditate:

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this? Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this."

—Esther 4:14

Friends, it's been a gift to journey with you through *Courageous Influence*.

Let's be courageous women of influence whose impact can be seen through our love for God and one another—for such a time as this.

We hope you will join us for our next (in)courage Bible study, *Courageous Kindness!*

