

# *Courageous* kindness

## LEADER GUIDE FOR COURAGEOUS KINDNESS

Dear Leader Friends,

We are so grateful you are linking arms with us to learn more about *Courageous Kindness*. As Becky Keife unpacks in this study, kindness is like stones being tossed in a pond. Each one of us will make temporary ripples when we obey God's call to be kind. And together, we can create waves of lasting change in Jesus' name. This study will guide you on the journey of living with courageous kindness.

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. This experience is less about checking boxes and more about digging into God's Word together!

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 help 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 kindness.

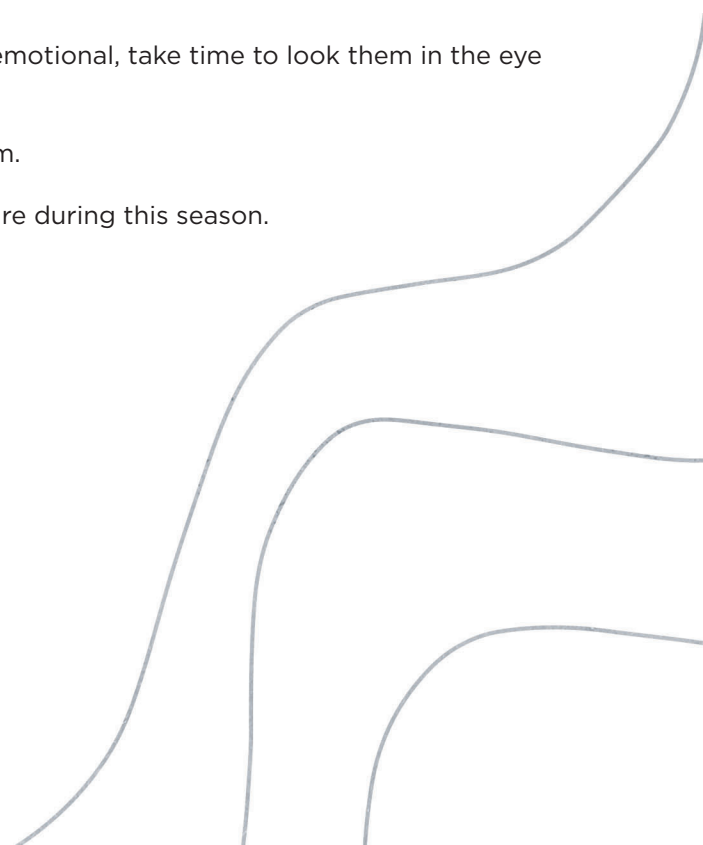
For His Glory,  
Your friends at (in)courage

## AS YOU LEAD

*Courageous Kindness* is a great study for small group use. We recommend starting by watching the weekly video together, available at [incourage.me/biblestudy](https://incourage.me/biblestudy), and then 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. You might be meeting with one or two friends or 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.
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## ICEBREAKER SUGGESTIONS

Have fun and be creative on how you get comfortable and cultivate friendships with your group each week. You might consider asking a simple question like “What made an impact on you from the study or video 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. What city did you grow up in and what was that like?
2. What’s the most embarrassing fashion trend you used to rock?
3. If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?
4. What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?
5. You’re going to sail around the world. What’s the name of your boat?
6. What’s one career you wish you could have?
7. How would you name the present season you are in?
8. If you could magically become fluent in any language, what would it be and why?
9. Name one cool feature you would add to your dream house.
10. What is your favorite ice cream flavor and ice cream topping?

## 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](https://incourage.me/biblestudy). **Process** the question from the video 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. This is an opportunity to partner with God and witness the work He’s doing in your group members!

## WEEK 1: RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE

### Process together:

What holds you back from being kind? And what helps you to put on love and kindness even when you don't think someone deserves it?

### Discuss:

1. Read Psalm 103:11-14 and Romans 8:38-39 together. How is God's love described? How have you seen this kind of persistent love and compassion displayed in your life? (p. 17)
2. When have you experienced God's kindness in an unexpected way at a time when you most needed it? (p. 22)
3. Have you ever had a hard time helping someone when it seemed undeserved? Share an example. (p. 30)
4. Read Matthew 8:5-13 and John 11:38-44 together. How is believing linked to seeing or experiencing God's power in your life? (p. 37)
5. When has someone jumped in and helped you without being asked? How did their actions communicate their love for you? (p. 44)

### Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for showing you what it looks like to live with courageous kindness. Call out your gratitude for the way He loves you just as you are. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you opportunities to do good right where you are today.

### Meditate:

"Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?"

—Romans 2:4 NLT



## WEEK 2: EXACTLY WHAT YOU HAVE

### Process together:

When have you seen God use your small or seemingly inadequate offering to meet a specific need?

### Discuss:

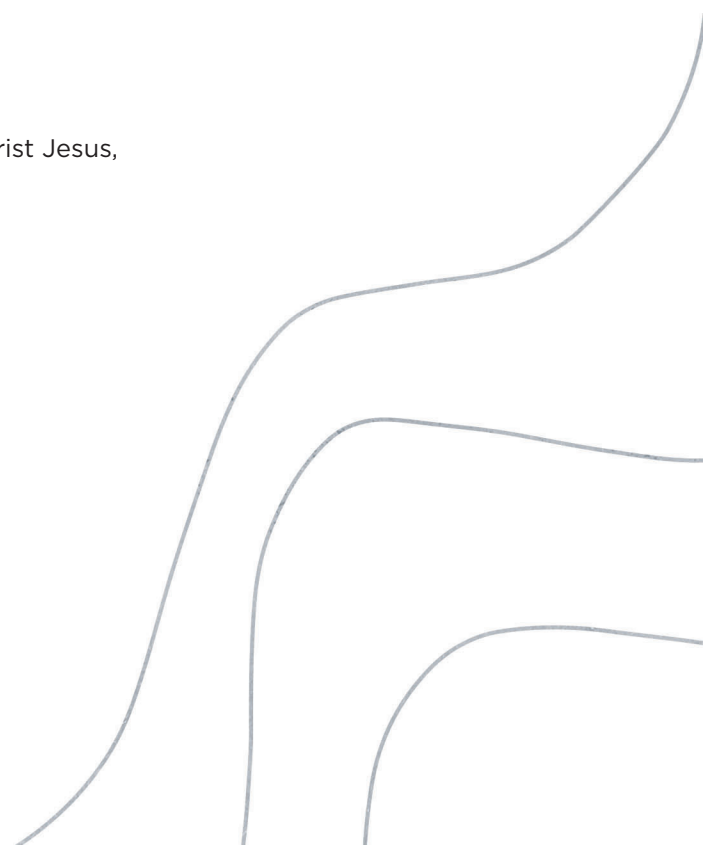
1. Read Luke 19:1-10 together. Think about the crowd and all the possible sights, sounds, and smells that would have been vying for Jesus's attention as He entered a new city. What does it tell you about Jesus that He gave His attention to Zacchaeus? (p. 55)
2. Has God ever asked you to use something seemingly irrelevant—an old hobby, a forgotten talent, or a small treasure—to make a difference? What does Dorina's story tell you about God's ability to meet the needs of His people? (p. 60)
3. Read John 15:7-12 together. What is the connection between love and obedience? What three things does Jesus desire most from us? (Hint: look at verses 8, 9, and 12.) (p. 67)
4. How have you experienced the comfort of God's presence in a difficult circumstance? What physical, emotional, or spiritual needs will you ask Him to send manna-like provision for today? (p. 76)
5. Thinking of the women who washed Jesus's feet, is there something God is asking you to sacrifice as an act of worship and kindness? (p. 84)

### Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for being mindful of you today and seeing your needs. Ask Him to provide opportunities to show love and compassion to the people in front of you. Invite Him to help you love courageously using exactly what you have.

### Meditate:

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."  
—Ephesians 2:10 NLT



## WEEK 3: BENDING LOW AND LIFTING UP

### Process together:

When have you faced an impossible season or situation? How did God use the support of others to help you?

### Discuss:

1. Do you have a hard time asking for help? What holds you back from inviting someone into your needs? (p. 88)
2. Read Philippians 2:1-4 together. How do verses 1-2 prepare us to live out verses 3-4? (p. 97)
3. Read Exodus 17:8-16. What did God tell Moses to do once Amalek's army had been defeated? What's the significance of what Moses did right after that? (p. 105)
4. Have you ever said yes to helping with an unpleasant task? What does it require to put someone else's need above your own comfort? (p. 110)
5. Read Titus 3:14 together. Did God bring anyone to mind that has a need you can help meet? Share in the group if you feel comfortable. (p. 122)

### Prayer Prompts:

Invite God to grow in you a heart of surrender so that you can choose courageous kindness. Praise God for inviting you to partner with Him. Ask Jesus for the encouragement and support you need today to extend that kindness.

### Meditate:

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."  
—Philippians 2:3 NIV



## WEEK 4: COMPASSION AND INCONVENIENCE

### Process together:

Which of the stories in today's video resonated with you? How has someone shown you the kindness of their presence or offered something to you that was precious to them?

### Discuss:

1. Read Romans 13:8-10 together. How would you summarize Paul's teaching? (p. 129)
2. When has someone's compassion surprised you? What effect did their kindness have on you? (p. 134)
3. Look up Mark 10:13-16 together. How does Jesus respond to the children? What do you think Jesus means by receiving the kingdom of God like a little child? (p. 144)
4. What thoughts, longings, or memories does Tasha's story about her friend Anita stir for you? (p. 148)
5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 together. What reason is given for why God comforts us? What comes after the *so that*? (p. 157)

### Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for having compassion on the hungry, the sick, the lonely, and on us. Thank Jesus for laying down His life for you. Ask God to help you to receive the compassion and rest He offers and to show sacrificial love to others.

### Meditate:

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

—1 Peter 4:10 NIV



## WEEK 5: FOR THE LONG HAUL

### Process together:

“God’s miracles of transformation often happen over the long haul—one moment, one small kindness at a time.” How have you experienced this to be true in your life?

### Discuss:


1. Read Psalm 107:28–31 and Luke 8:22–25. What did God/Jesus do for those in the storm? When has He met you in a stormy season or situation? (p. 165)
2. Has a friend ever gifted you time or acts of service over the long haul? What did it mean to you? (p. 170)
3. Have you ever longed for a friendship or community that looked a certain way? How did (or could) your willingness to invest in the people in front of you make a difference? (p. 176)
4. Read Daniel 1:1–16. How is God’s kindness and compassion displayed to Daniel? What was the ultimate outcome? (p. 185)
5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:25–26 in your favorite translation. Then look it up in The Message using your Bible app or at BibleGateway.com. How does it describe God’s design for the body of Christ? (p. 194)

### Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for creating you for community. Ask Him to open your eyes and heart to identify whomever He wants you to do life with. Invite Him to help you lead a life of courageous kindness this week.

### Meditate:

“We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”  
—1 Thessalonians 2:8 CSB





## WEEK 6: MORE THAN YOU EXPECTED

### Process together:

Have you ever doubted you could make a difference? How have you seen God work in your life in an unexpected yet providential way?

### Discuss:

1. Read 1 Kings 17:8-16 together. How would you describe the woman's circumstances and state of mind? What do you think compelled her to do what Elijah asked even though logically it didn't make sense? (p. 199)
2. When has God answered a desperate prayer or provided for a need in a way you didn't expect? (p. 204)
3. Read Joshua 2:1-11 together. What does Rahab do for the spies? What reason does she give for helping them? (p. 211)
4. Think about how God's love and goodness have been evident in your life recently. How does this spur you on in your commitment to live with courageous kindness? (p. 220)
5. Read Psalm 90:17 together as a courageous kindness anthem. How is God asking you to trust in His power and partner with Him in the work of courageous kindness today?

### Prayer Prompts:

Ask Jesus to show you what it looks like to live surrendered to the Father. Ask Him to help you stop striving in kindness with motives of getting something in return. Praise Him for the kindness you have been freely given.

### Meditate:

"Let the favor of the LORD our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands—establish the work of our hands!"  
—Psalm 90:17 CSB

**Friends, it's been a gift to journey with you** through *Courageous Kindness*. Our prayer is that these stories and lessons will make an imprint on your heart as you move forward. Let's be courageous women of kindness who love like Jesus!

We hope you will join us for our next (in)courage Bible study, *Create in Me a Heart of Hope!*