

What's the Difference?

Week 4: A Step of Courage

Fear is real. We all experience it. Fear of being judged, fear of not living up to expectations, fear of saying the wrong thing, fear of not having enough money—the list goes on and on. But God never intended for us to live in fear. “Fear not” is the most used command in the Bible because fear prevents us from experiencing the life God wants us to live. That’s why we need to pursue *courage*—the thing that allows us to move beyond fear. Courage precedes our “difference-making” moments.

Discussion Questions

1. Everyone experiences fear in one way or another. What is your greatest fear? What has fear kept you from doing in your life? Is there a decision that fear has kept you from making? People who show courage often inspire us. Give an example of someone you know who has inspired you with their courage. How did they show courage? How were you inspired by that?
2. People who show courage often inspire us. Give an example of someone you know who has inspired you with their courage. How did they show courage? How were you inspired by that?
3. **Read 2 Timothy 1:7.**
 - What does it mean to have a spirit of fear? What does it mean to have a spirit of power, love, and self-control?
 - Give an example of what it looks like when someone lives with a spirit of fear. Give an example of what it looks like when someone lives with a spirit of power, love, and self-control.
4. Baptism is one area of our faith where some people may feel fear because they are not sure what baptism means or why we do it. At Browns Bridge, we define baptism this way:
 - Baptism is a *public* declaration of a new association.
 - Baptism is a *personal* declaration of a new association.
5. Have you been baptized? If so, what motivated you to be baptized? If not, what has kept you from making that decision?

Moving Forward

Fear and courage impact our lives in drastically different ways. Fear keeps us from moving forward and from changing. In contrast, courage precedes our “difference-making” moments. It enables us to change.

Jesus showed us what it looks like to acknowledge our relationship with God through baptism. Do you have the courage to show others that you trust who God says he is and what he has done for you? Is it time for you to take a step of courage and be baptized? If you have questions about baptism or would like to be baptized, please go to our website at www.brownsbridge.org/baptism and let us know.