

FROM THE CREATORS OF FIREPROOF

# COURAGEOUS

HONOR BEGINS AT HOME



## STUDY GUIDE





## CREW OVERVIEW

Alex Kendrick (Director; Writer)  
Stephen Kendrick (Writer)

## CAST OVERVIEW

Alex Kendrick (Adam Mitchell)  
Ken Bevel (Nathan Hayes)  
Ben Davies (David Thomson)  
Kevin Downes (Shane Fuller)  
Robert Amaya (Javier Martinez)  
Renee Jewell (Victoria Mitchell)  
Rusty Martin, Jr. (Dylan Mitchell)  
Lauren Etchells (Emily Mitchell)  
Eleanor Brown (Kayla Hayes)  
Taylor Hutcherson (Jade Hayes)  
Angelita Nelson (Carmen Martinez)  
Donald Howze (Derrick)  
Joshua Kendrick (Tyler Fuller)  
Anna Marie McWilliams (Amanda)  
Ed Litton (Pastor Hunt)

## USING THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Intended for use after viewing the film, this study guide provides catalysts for biblically-based discussion of various themes found in *Courageous*. The guide features three themes from the movie and is structured in such a way that groups can choose to discuss the entire guide at once or can focus on one or two themes at a time.

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## FILM OVERVIEW/NOTE TO GROUP

From the creators of *Fireproof*, *Facing the Giants*, and *Flywheel* comes *Courageous*, a powerful film that explores the concept and practice of biblical fatherhood. Set in Albany, Georgia – a town facing the effects

of fatherlessness as evidenced by the increase in gang activity and present, yet passive fathers – four sheriff's deputies strive to serve and protect the community; unfortunately, their fierce commitment to the job doesn't always translate to the home front. When tragedy strikes, the men – led by Adam Mitchell (played by writer and director Alex Kendrick) – resolve to infuse their lives with faith and a renewed commitment to fatherhood.

The film opens with an intense sequence in which Nathan Hayes (Ken Bevel) chases down his stolen car and secures his infant son's safety. Adam and his partner, Deputy Shane Fuller (Kevin Downes), are the first responders to the incident, and Nathan's heroic actions prompt them to consider the lengths to which they'd go for their own children. Fittingly, the next scene sheds light on Adam's relationship with his kids – the role of father seems fairly mechanical, and his favoritism toward Emily (Lauren Etchells) leaves teenage Dylan (Rusty Martin, Jr.) angry and hurt. But, Adam isn't the only one struggling. Nathan, the latest hire at the Sheriff's department, is trying to teach his daughter, Jade (Taylor Hutcherson) patience and discretion with dating. For Shane, life after divorce has complicated his financial situation and created distance with his son, Tyler (Joshua Kendrick). David Thomson (Ben Davies), a newly minted deputy, is troubled by the fatherlessness epidemic because of a secret he bears from college. And Javier Martinez (Robert Amaya), Adam's friend, wants to trust God, but also worries about economic uncertainty.

The men are fixed in their respective holding patterns. And then a tragedy changes everything.

One day, Adam and his wife, Victoria (Renee Jewell), receive news that no parent wants to hear: Emily, their 9-year-old daughter, has died in a car accident. As the Mitchells grieve and Adam laments the time he took for granted, he realizes that he is still a father. So, with his pastor's guidance and careful study of the Bible, Adam seeks God's direction for becoming a courageous, godly father to Dylan. The result is the Resolution, a written pledge that calls Adam to account. When he presents the document to his four close friends, they are stirred to take the oath as well.

After a special signing ceremony for the Resolution, the men endeavor to uphold their vows. David reaches out to the girlfriend and child he previously abandoned. Nathan forgives the deceased father he never knew. Adam begins calling out the man in his son. But, trials soon arise, and Adam, Javier, and Shane face challenges that test their integrity; of the three, Shane fails, and his consequence serves as a solemn reminder of the group's increased accountability. Soon after, Adam reflects on his recent experiences during a moving speech at his church, and he encourages fathers to stand and take responsibility, to live courageously under God's direction.

# THEME ONE: RESPONDING TO TRAGEDY

Guiding Scripture: Romans 5:3-5 (NIV): “Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

## SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

- Psalm 34:19 (NLT): “The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.”
- Psalm 147:3 (NIV): “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”
- Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4 (NIV): “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens... a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.”
- John 3:16 (NIV): “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
- John 16:33 (NIV): “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
- Romans 5:3-5 (NIV): “Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”
- Romans 8:26 (NIV): “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”
- 2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT): “For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!”
- 2 Timothy 3:12 (NLT): “Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”
- 1 Peter 4:12-13 (NIV): “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.”

## DVD SCENES TO REVIEW

- Tragedy (00:41:40 – 00:45:00, Chapter 9)
- Difficult Questions (00:45:37 – 00:50:30, Chapter 10)
- Counseling (00:52:30 – 00:55:10, Chapter 11)
- Emily’s Dance (00:22:01 – 00:25:06, Chapter 5)
- Adam’s Side of the Dance (01:13:10 – 01:16:17, Chapter 15)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Tragedy is an unfortunate reality of the human experience in this fallen, imperfect world. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon writes, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens... a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance” (3:1, 4; see Scriptures Referenced). Solomon affirms that mourning is necessary and appropriate – for a time. Ultimately, though, tragedy requires a response: to remain in grief or to grow in faith.

When Emily dies in a car accident, Adam, Victoria, and Dylan are met with unspeakable grief. The deep, pronounced pain of this senseless tragedy threatens to overwhelm them. During the funeral, though,

Pastor Hunt (Ed Litton) speaks to the Mitchells’ hearts with the only truth that can properly and adequately address this tragedy: Jesus lives, and because of Him, there is hope.

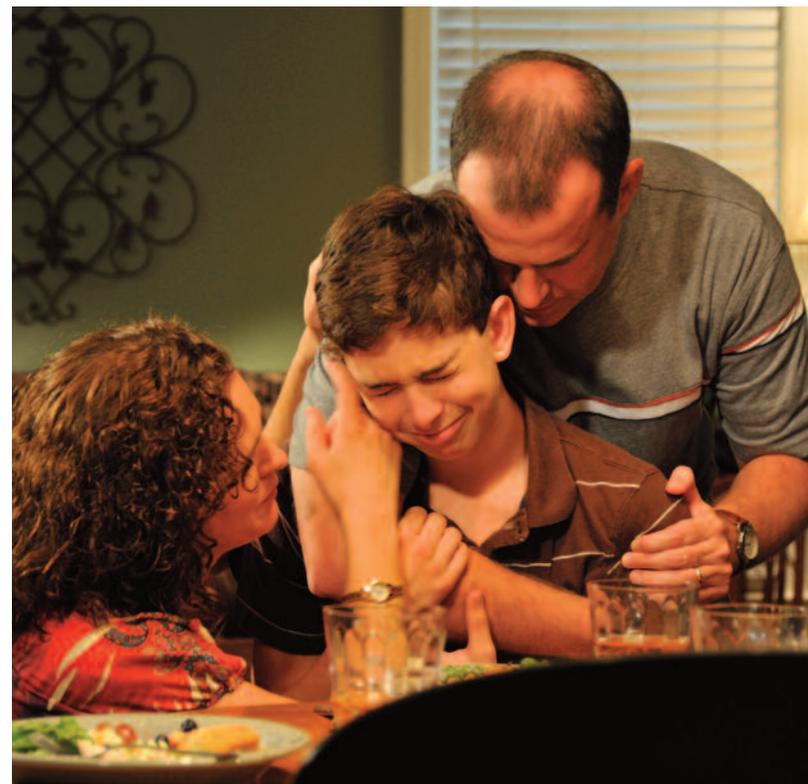
## SCENE TO REVIEW

Tragedy (00:41:40 – 00:45:00, Chapter 9)

- As you watched this scene unfold, how did you respond? Did you have any sort of emotional, spiritual, or physical reaction to this sudden and shocking tragedy?
- In your opinion, why is this scene (i.e. Emily’s death) necessary to the story? Prior to this moment in the film, were there any indicators that something tragic might occur?
- Pastor Hunt delivers a beautiful message at Emily’s funeral. How does he simultaneously acknowledge the depth of the Mitchells’ pain and encourage their weary, burdened souls?
- Take some time to think about and discuss the magnitude of Jesus’ victory over death. What does His resurrection mean for our “human condition”? How is it a “Living Hope”?

Read John 3:16; Romans 8:26; and 2 Timothy 3:12 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- John 3:16 is often referenced as a verse that explains salvation through Jesus Christ. How might it also reveal God’s empathy for those who suffer the death of a child?
- Pastor Hunt refers to the human inability to speak to a “grieving and shattered heart.” According to Romans 8:26, how does the Holy Spirit minister to our hearts?
- According to 2 Timothy 3:12, Christians are not exempt from trouble. But, how does faith in Jesus Christ equip believers with a unique perspective on tragedy and suffering?





In the days following the funeral, the tragedy of Emily's death seems like a palpable, tangible presence in the Mitchell household. During this trying time, Adam and Victoria wrestle with regret, guilt, and confusion, but after an eye-opening interaction with a distant Dylan, Adam must consider – for perhaps the first time – how he will ultimately respond to this tragedy.

## SCENE TO REVIEW

### Difficult Questions (00:45:37 – 00:50:30, Chapter 10)

- At the beginning of the scene, Victoria asks difficult, unanswerable questions, and Adam tells her that they can't dwell in that mentality. Why does he discourage the practice?
- Adam expresses frustration that he didn't say or do certain things when Emily was alive. Why does tragedy cause such introspection and regret?
- How would you describe Adam's interaction with Dylan? As that portion of the scene unfolds, what does Adam start to realize about his relationship with his son?
- What role does Emily's death play in helping Adam to understand his role as father? Why might hindsight with Emily prompt Adam to change his approach with Dylan?

Take a moment to read Psalm 147:3 and John 16:33 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- How does the message of Psalm 147:3 offer encouragement to those who are hurt, grieving, or suffering? How does this verse relate to the theme of responding to tragedy?
- According to John 16:33, where do we find peace amidst the trouble of this world? Why is that peace vital to our ability to endure hardships and tragedy?

As Adam continues in the grieving process, he seeks counsel from his pastor. In a moving conversation, Adam and Pastor Hunt discuss tragedy's role in refining faith and inspiring greater intimacy with God. The men also address the reality that Adam must choose how he will respond to this tragedy – will he be angry for the time he didn't have or grateful for the time that he did?

## SCENE TO REVIEW

### Counseling (00:52:30 – 00:55:10, Chapter 11)

- How does this scene highlight a pastor's role in caring for his or her congregation? What are the benefits of seeking counsel from a respected, trustworthy, and wise church leader?

Pastor Hunt tells Adam that this tragedy is an opportunity to “discover a comfort and intimacy with God that most people never experience.”

- Why does the Lord value our trust? How does our decision to trust in the Lord during tragedy (or other difficulties) foster greater intimacy?
- Adam says that he doesn't want to be angry; he wants to heal. Why is this admission an important step for Adam? How will his desire to heal help him through his grief?
- How about you? Have you ever developed a greater intimacy with God because you trusted him amidst difficulty? If so, can you describe your experience?

Read Psalm 34:19 and Romans 5:3-5 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- Pastor Hunt says that God doesn't promise an explanation, but He does promise to walk with us through the pain. How does Psalm 34:19 relate to this promise?
- What does Romans 5:3-5 say about responding to tragedy? Why does suffering produce perseverance, character, and hope? How do these things reflect God's glory in us?

Feel free to watch the following Optional Scenes to Review; they demonstrate Adam's journey from reluctant spectator to active participant where fatherhood is concerned. This journey wouldn't have been possible without Adam's decision to respond to tragedy with faith in God.

## OPTIONAL SCENES TO REVIEW

### Emily's Dance (00:22:01 – 00:25:06, Chapter 5)

### Adam's Side of the Dance (01:13:10 – 01:16:17, Chapter 15)

As you conclude this theme discussion, read 2 Corinthians 4:17 and 1 Peter 4:12-13 (see Scriptures Referenced). Consider the Mitchells' journey as a whole and discuss the role of faith in their lives to help them find purpose and peace despite tragedy. Perhaps you can even spend some time in prayer, seeking guidance for current struggles or thanking God for His faithfulness.

# THEME TWO: LIVING WITH HONOR

Guiding Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT): “Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.”

## SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

- 1 Chronicles 29:17 (NIV): “I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity.”
- Psalm 27:1 (NLT): “The Lord is my light and my salvation – so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?”
- Psalm 56:3-4 (NIV): “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise – in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”
- Micah 6:8 (NIV): “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:23 (NIV): “I have the right to do anything, you say – but not everything is beneficial. I have the right to do anything – but not everything is constructive.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV): “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”
- 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT): “Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.”
- Philippians 2:12-13 (NLT): “Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”
- Philippians 4:13 (NIV): “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”
- Colossians 3:23 (NLT): “Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.”

## DVD SCENES TO REVIEW

- Backyard Discussion (00:25:07 – 00:28:37, Chapter 6)
- The Firing Range (01:08:29 – 01:12:18, Chapter 14)
- Tests of Character (01:26:04 – 01:32:28, Chapter 18)
- Courageous Decisions (01:32:29 – 01:40:09, Chapter 19)
- The Shootout (01:32:29 – 01:40:09, Chapter 22)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Guiding Scripture for this theme – “Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13) – encompasses several attributes of living with honor. During the course of the film, each of the main characters has the opportunity to either take responsibility or lose credibility. For most of these men, honor is a priority. For one, honor has little meaning.

At Adam’s house one afternoon, the men discuss the effects of fatherlessness as outlined by the sheriff’s report. In debating the report’s validity, they begin to reveal their own experiences with either absent, distant, mediocre, or hypocritical fathers. David, who has a particular reason to worry about this disturbing trend, later asks Nathan more about his scarred, fatherless childhood.

## SCENES TO REVIEW

**Backyard Discussion (00:25:07 – 00:28:37, Chapter 6)**

**The Firing Range (01:08:29 – 01:12:18, Chapter 14)**

- After hearing Shane, David, and Nathan describe their respective childhoods, what would you say about the role of honor in their fathers’ lives? Was honor important?
- Shane reveals that his father was insincere and hypocritical in his faith. How has this legacy of dishonor continued with Shane? How will it impact his son, Tyler?
- How does the conversation at Adam’s house carry over to the firing range? What’s bothering David? Why is he haunted by stories of Nathan’s fatherless childhood?
- Why has it been difficult for David to accept responsibility for his actions? How does David’s struggle demonstrate the courage it takes to pursue an honorable lifestyle?

Take a moment to read Psalm 27:1 and Philippians 2:12-13 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- As David makes the transition into a life of faith, how can he take comfort in the assurances of Psalm 27:1? How does this verse also affirm his search for honor?

The end of the Philippians passage says, “For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”





- How is this verse relevant to David and his circumstances? Have you ever experienced either subtle or dramatic changes when God was working on something in your life?
- Why does the decision to live honorably require divine guidance? What happens if we try to manufacture honor or sustain a life of honor apart from its Creator?

Almost immediately after signing the Resolution, Javier and Adam are faced with circumstances that test their integrity and honor. If they want to maintain credibility and uphold the Resolution, they must find the courage to make some tough decisions. For Javier, standing up for his beliefs may cost him his means to provide for his family. For Adam, the right thing to do may cost him a best friend.

## SCENE TO REVIEW

### Tests of Character (01:26:04 – 01:32:28, Chapter 18)

- Adam tells Dylan to seek the Lord and trust Him, even if that means he's standing alone. How does this advice apply to both Javier and Adam in the scenes that follow?
- What do you think of the timing of these trials? Why do the tests occur right after the men sign the Resolution? Has that type of spiritual warfare ever happened to you?
- If Javier and Adam want to preserve their integrity, what must each of them do? Why is the right thing to do sometimes (or even usually) the hardest thing to do?
- At the end of the scene, Dylan overhears Adam saying that he has to do what's right. How does Adam's honor act as a witness to Dylan?

Read Psalm 56:3-4 and Micah 6:8 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- According to Psalm 56:3-4, where should we place our trust and how does that give us courage? How does this verse also remind us of God's ultimate authority?
- Micah 6:8 is a command to "act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." How are Javier and Adam adhering to this verse if they maintain their integrity?

The following Scene to Review is the continuation and conclusion of the previous one. Here, Javier and Adam make their courageous decisions and await the outcomes of their choices. Both men choose the honorable path, but only Javier's course ends in celebration. Adam must heed his own advice: Seek the Lord and trust Him, even if you're standing alone. While Adam does have the support of Nathan and the other officers, the mood at the station is anything but celebratory.

## SCENE TO REVIEW

### Courageous Decisions (01:32:29 – 01:40:09, Chapter 19)

- How does Javier maintain his integrity when faced with adversity? What does he say to his boss about honoring God above all else? How is Javier's witness strengthened?
- The Resolution holds the men doubly accountable for their actions. How does this accountability give Javier and Adam the courage they need to maintain their conviction?
- What do Shane's actions and decisions reveal about his approach to and attitude toward the Resolution? What damage has he caused by being willing to surrender his honor?
- Can you relate to Javier's experience? Or maybe Adam's? Has your integrity ever been put to the test in the workplace, at school, or somewhere unexpected? What happened?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:23 and Philippians 4:13 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 10:23, in part, to encourage Christians to edify one another. How might this verse serve as an additional warning against poor judgment?
- Philippians 4:13 is brief, yet powerful; can you give examples from your own life about finding strength in Jesus Christ? About being able to live honorably through Him?

In a testament to true camaraderie, the following Optional Scene to Review features the climactic shootout scene at the end of the film. After developing strong bonds – bonds of faith, tragedy, perseverance, community – with each other, Adam, Nathan, and David come together to contain and arrest some dangerous criminals. More than ever, the officers do their work with honor: maintaining integrity, providing backup and assistance, and working to finish the job at hand.

## OPTIONAL SCENE TO REVIEW

### The Shootout (01:32:29 – 01:40:09, Chapter 22)

In concluding this theme discussion, take some time to look at 1 Chronicles 29:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 16:13; and Colossians 3:23 (see Scriptures Referenced), and consider what each verse says about honor. Perhaps think about the role of honor in your own life – are there areas in which you could more fully pursue honor with courage and boldness? Wherever you stand, know that God is the Creator of honor, and His Word will guide and protect as we pursue His ways.

## THEME THREE: BUILDING AN INHERITANCE

Guiding Scripture: Joshua 24:15 (NIV): "...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

### SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

- Exodus 20:12 (NIV): "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you."
- Joshua 24:15 (NIV): "...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."
- Psalm 103:13 (NLT): "The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him."
- Psalm 112:1-2 (NIV): "Praise the Lord. Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands. Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed."
- Proverbs 3:11-12 (NLT): "My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you. For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights."
- Proverbs 22:6 (NLT): "Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it."
- Ephesians 6:4 (NIV): "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."
- Colossians 3:21 (NIV): "Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."

### DVD SCENES TO REVIEW

- Fatherhood Research (00:55:11 – 00:57:33, Chapter 12)
- Introducing the Resolution (01:04:20 – 01:07:12, Chapter 13)
- Resolution Ceremony (01:18:26 – 01:22:23, Chapter 16)
- Father's Day Speech (01:55:35 – 02:01:08, Chapter 24)
- An Important Letter (01:22:24 – 01:24:25, Chapter 17)
- A Father's Promise (01:40:40 – 01:43:15, Chapter 21)

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Bible is clear about its message: In order to be saved, a person must accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The acceptance is a personal decision; it can't be forced or bestowed; it must be actively received. So, as much a parent might want to, he cannot save his child. However, a parent has the unique privilege of creating a faith heritage – a spiritual inheritance – for his family. And that parent can do everything in his power to set an example for the next generation.

Emily's death serves as a major turning point for the Mitchell family in general and Adam in particular. He realizes that fatherhood is an immense opportunity. For a time, Adam has the chance to guide and nurture Dylan's understanding of faith, of God, and of salvation. By taking this responsibility seriously, there is a much greater chance that Dylan will be a man of God.



## SCENES TO REVIEW

**Fatherhood Research (00:55:11 – 00:57:33, Chapter 12)**

**Introducing the Resolution (01:04:20 – 01:07:12, Chapter 13)**

Adam tells Victoria that he's accepting the fact that he has to "learn to do the hard things." Specifically, he's considering running with Dylan, which represents a major change of heart.

- Adam realizes that he must invest in Dylan's interests to create a relationship. Why is this good practice for anyone who might be struggling to connect with someone else?

When Victoria asks Adam how his research is progressing, he says, "There is so much in Scripture about being a father. I never took time to look it up."

- How could this concept apply to other roles we assume? Have you ever studied what Scripture says about being a good mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, etc.?

In response to Shane's comment, Adam says, "Whatever patterns we set for [our kids] will likely be used for their kids and the generation after that. We have the responsibility to mold a life."

- How does Adam's comment explain the importance of building an inheritance? Why is it important to create good patterns that children can follow?
- In your own words, define the following terms: inheritance, heritage, and legacy. Do your definitions apply to a spiritual inheritance, heritage, or legacy? Why or why not?

Read Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:4 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- How do these verses address the concept of building a spiritual inheritance? What does Exodus 20:12 say about generational blessing? What is the long-term reward?
- Ephesians 6:4 is straightforward. How does Adam's journey through the film fit each aspect of this verse? How has Adam and Dylan's relationship grown and matured?

Thanks to Nathan's wife, Kayla (Eleanor Brown), the five friends – Adam, Nathan, David, Shane, and Javier – decide to sign the Resolution in an official ceremony. Each man is required to take his own vows, committing himself to his spouse, children, and responsibilities.

Soon after the ceremony, Nathan tries a new, personal, and intentional approach to make a connection with Jade. His efforts to show his daughter how much he loves her are well received.



## SCENE TO REVIEW

**Resolution Ceremony (01:18:26 – 01:22:23, Chapter 16)**

**A Father's Promise (01:40:40 – 01:43:15, Chapter 21)**

- As the men pledge their commitment, what aspects of the Resolution stand out to you? Being a good parent? Caring for your spouse? Accepting responsibility?
- Why is it important to hold a formal Resolution ceremony? What message does that send to the men's wives and children? How does that contribute to building an inheritance?
- In the second scene with Nathan and Jade, why does this new approach work better than the previous discussions about dating that have ended in arguments and frustration?
- Discuss some of the ways that Nathan demonstrates his love for his daughter. How is this dinner a manifestation of Nathan's desire to build a spiritual inheritance for his children?

Read Psalm 112:1-2 and Colossians 3:21 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- How does Psalm 112:1-2 relate to the purpose of the Resolution? What does the passage say about building an inheritance? What is the eternal inheritance we have with Jesus?
- In what ways does Nathan honor the instruction found in Colossians 3:21? If you have children, can you relate to this verse? Have you tried new approaches with your kids?

At the end of the film, Adam speaks at a Father's Day service at church. He delivers a powerful message about the devastation of fatherlessness, and he traces his own journey from a somewhat perfunctory fixture to an engaged, proactive father. He pleads with fathers to pursue biblical fatherhood, and to be the "visual representation of the character of God" to future generations.

## SCENE TO REVIEW

**Father's Day Speech (01:55:35 – 02:01:08, Chapter 24)**

- Take some time to think about and discuss Adam's speech. Feel free to watch the scene again if you missed any talking points. Were you impacted by his message? If so, how?
- Adam says that a father should seek to win their children's hearts. What are some practical ways that fathers could do this? How does this promote a heritage of faith?
- "As a father, you're accountable to God for the position of influence He's given you." How does this eternal perspective provide accountability for those who might need it?
- At one point, Adam says, "The souls of your children have eternal value" – a necessary reminder. How does this speak to the theme of building an inheritance?

Take a moment to read Joshua 24:15 and Proverbs 3:11-12 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- Both the Resolution and the film end with Joshua 24:15. What does this verse say about choosing to honor God? About creating a godly pattern for future generations?
- Why might Proverbs 3:11-12 be a good verse for those who are trying to learn about how to be a better father? How does this verse apply to Adam's experience in the film?

Feel free to watch the following Optional Scene to Review in which David finally reaches out to Amanda (Anna Marie McWilliams) in order to take responsibility for his past and to create a hope for the future. This scene immediately follows the Resolution Ceremony scene, and this is David's attempt to uphold his vows, knowing he may finally meet his young daughter.

## OPTIONAL SCENES TO REVIEW

### An Important Letter (01:22:24 – 01:24:25, Chapter 17)

As you conclude this theme discussion, read Psalm 103:13 and Proverbs 22:6 (see Scriptures Referenced). Take some time to think about how these verses – and any others that you can think of – relate to the theme of building an inheritance. Perhaps your group members can share some ideas for parenting, mentoring, and building relationships with an eternal purpose in mind.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Feel free to watch the following Scenes to Review and discuss the questions that follow.

## SCENES TO REVIEW

### Car Chase (00:00:54 – 00:04:46, Chapter 1)

### Jail Visit (01:43:16 – 01:46:19, Chapter 21)

- What is the significance of the wheel analogy? Why is it important to hold the wheel?

- How do Adam's and Shane's perspectives of the wheel change from the first scene to the second? What has happened to cause these massive shifts in perspective?

## SCENE TO REVIEW

### God's Perfect Timing (00:28:38 – 00:33:58, Chapter 6)

- How does this scene highlight God's timing and divine intervention? Javier is a man of tremendous faith; how does God honor Javier's loyalty and obedience?

## SCENES TO REVIEW

### Sheriff's Meeting (00:07:36 – 00:09:49, Chapter 2)

### Gang Initiation (00:34:49 – 00:36:26, Chapter 7)

- How does the gang activity in the film add a vivid dimension to the fatherlessness issue? What compels young men such as Derrick (Donald Howze ) to join a gang "family"?



# "THE BEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR!"

- Pastor Rick Warren

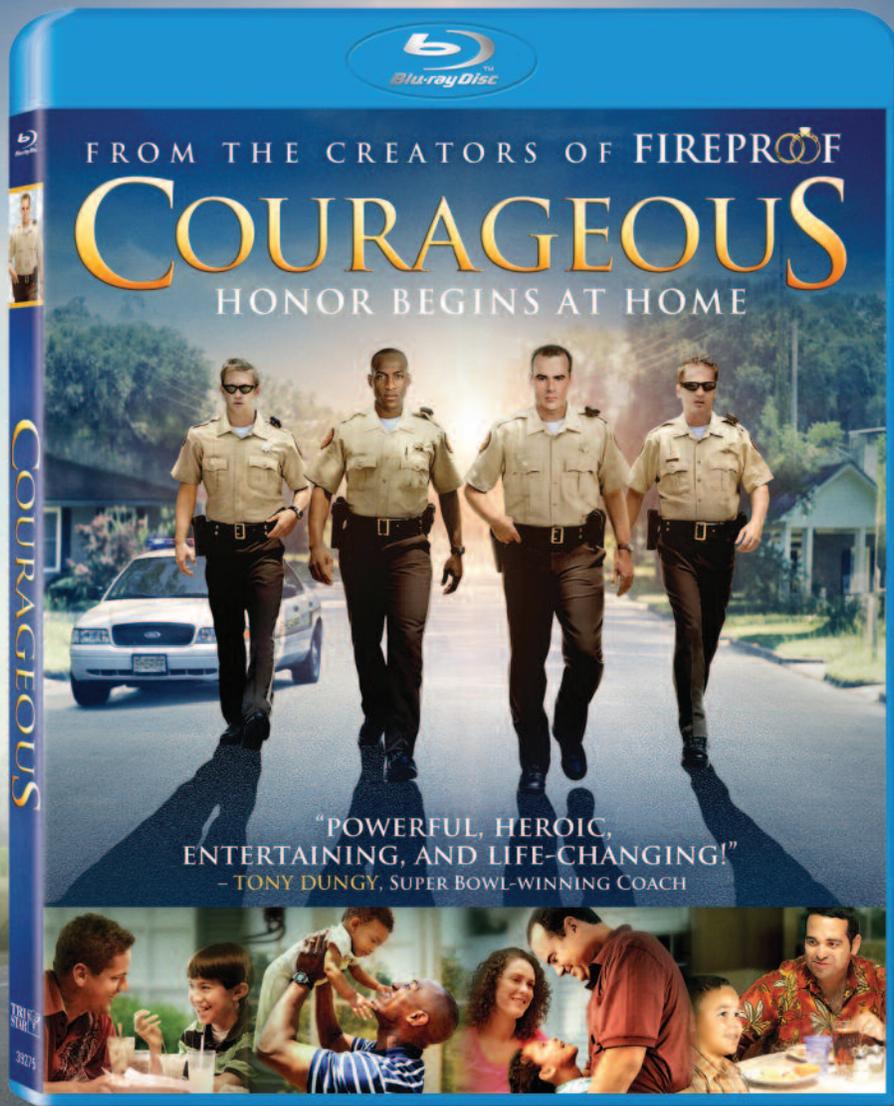
**"Courageous is inspired!"**

- Dick Rolfe, *The Dove Foundation*



**"...poignant, heartrending scenes and some of the funniest scenes in filmmaking."**

- Ted Baehr, *Movieguide*



**"...a message that...could bring hope and healing to families everywhere."**

- Bob Waliszewski, *FOTF's "Plugged In"*

**"Excellent!"**  
★★★★★

- Kam Williams, *Syndicated Columnist*

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