

# COURAGE

HOW ARE YOU CALLED TO BE COURAGEOUS THIS WEEK?



## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear Jesus, inspire us to be courageous, but to know I can't do that without you. Lord help me trust in you completely, even when fear threatens to weaken my faith. You are greater and you are stronger than anything I will ever face. So when the time comes for me to be brave, help me remember you are always with me. Give me a courageous heart- a heart that does the right thing even if it's afraid. A heart that walks boldly with confidence into whatever you call me to do. Amen.



## WORD OF THE WEEK

MATTHEW 14: 22-32

As soon as the meal was finished, Jesus insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people.

With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water.

They were scared to death. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come ahead."

Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!"

Jesus didn't hesitate.

He reached down and grabbed his hand.

Then he said, "Faint-heart, what got into you?"

The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, "This is it! You are God's Son for sure!"





## PUT YOURSELF IN THE BOAT!

Imagine you're one of the disciples in this situation.  
 What's going through your mind?  
 What emotions are you feeling?  
 What do you think it feels like to walk on water?

Jesus tells Peter to come and walk on the water.  
 When have you felt God asking you to take a big  
 step and do something unexpected or challenging  
 or bold or something which requires real courage?

## FOLLOWING COURAGEOUSLY!

Following Jesus is a leap of faith, and the Christian journey is full of moments when God calls us to obey and act in faith, with courage. We don't know what will happen, but we know that God wants us to act. One of the most familiar "leaps of faith" stories in the bible is Peter's early morning walk on water. This week we think about the leaps of faith we have to make in our lives and turn to Jesus to find the courage to take those steps.

What is the most courageous thing you've ever done?  
 How did you overcome any fears associated with this thing?

What is the craziest thing you want to try someday which will take a lot of courage?

Who are the most courageous people you know?  
 Why do you consider them to be courageous?



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When do you need to be courageous this week?

Take a moment of silence and ask God for the courage you need.

"Do not be afraid," he said.  
 "Take courage. I am here!"-  
 Jesus (Matthew 14: 27)



During the Second World War, Father Maximilian Kolbe gave shelter to thousands of Polish people, both Christians and Jews. Risking his life.

On February 17, 1941, he was caught and sent to a prison. A guard who noticed he was dressed like a priest said to him, "Do you believe in Christ?"

Father Kolbe answered, "Yes, I do." The guard hit him in the face and asked again. Father Kolbe kept giving the same answer, and the guard kept beating him.

After that, Father Kolbe was given a striped convict's uniform and the number 16670.

He was sent to a concentration camp, where he endured very hard work and beatings that almost killed him. When food was brought in, he let others take their share first. Sometimes there was nothing left for him.

One day a prisoner escaped from the camp. To punish the rest of the prisoners, the officers said 10 men would be killed. They were to be thrown in a pit and left to die. The guards chose the 10 men. As the men were gathered, one cried out, "My wife, my children! I shall never see them again!" From the watching crowd, another prisoner stepped forward.

**"I will take his place,"** he said.

It was Father Kolbe, prisoner 16670. While they were in the pit, Father Kolbe led the nine other men in prayer and song. The depths of that pit sounded like a church full of people. No one had heard anything like it in the prison before. Father Kolbe prayed and suffered bravely, as Jesus did. He gave his life for another, and he lifted the spirits of the other nine men who died.

After his death, the news of Father Kolbe's great love spread to the whole world. In 1982, he was made a saint.