



- **What is one of the bravest things you have seen another person do? What was so memorable about their act of bravery?**

*There was also Benaiah son of Jehoiada, a valiant warrior from Kabzeel. He did many heroic deeds, which included killing two of Moab's mightiest warriors. Another time he chased a lion down into a pit. Then, despite the snow and slippery ground, he caught the lion and killed it. Another time, armed only with a club, he killed a great Egyptian warrior who was armed with a spear. Benaiah wrenched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with it. These are some of the deeds that made Benaiah famous. And David made him commander of his bodyguard.*

**2 Samuel 23:20-23 (NLT)**

**Key Thought:** There are two ways to respond to fear: 1.) Seek to be safer and 2.) Seek to be braver.

- **How do you typically respond to fear?**
- **In what ways has fear motivated the way you act and think?**
- **What is the biggest fear you are currently facing? How have you dealt with it thus far?**

**Key Thought:** Courage doesn't come from a positive view of us, but from a proper view of God.

*God gave his approval to people in days of old because of their faith.*

**Hebrews 11:2 (NLT)**

*We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation. And this expectation will not disappoint us. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.*

**Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)**

*Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all—it is dead and useless.*

**James 2:14 and 17 (NLT)**

- **How have you seen God help you overcome impossible odds?**
- **How do you find strength and courage from your relationship with God? How is His strength like none other?**
- **Describe a time when God put you in the right place at the right time even though it did not feel like it. What did you learn from your experience?**
- **Why is does seem so much easier to run away from our fears rather than have the courage to face them?**
- **Where in your life do you need to stop playing it safe? What next step of courage do you need to take?**

**Final Thought:** We need to stop running away from our fears and playing it safe and instead seek courage from God. We can do anything with God because He loves impossible odds, He puts us in the right place at the right time and He detests inaction. Stop playing it safe and have the courage to use your success to bless others.

### Additional Resources

Men, consider reading *Wild at Heart* by John Eldridge. In this book, you will learn more about the type of man God desires you to be by returning to authentic and Biblical masculinity. You will also learn how to stop being so vulnerable and instead embrace the true heart of a man, which is to be a hero, to be a warrior and to live a life of adventure and risk. You can learn more about the book at <http://www.ransomedheart.com>.

Also consider reading *In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day* by Mark Batterson. In this book, Batterson expands on 2 Samuel 23:20-23 by encouraging us to have the courage to chase lions in our lives. You can learn more by visiting <http://chasethelion.com>.

## **For Further Study**

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

### **Open**

- What sorts of feats make a person into a hero or heroine?

### **Explore**

#### **Read 2 Samuel 23:8-39.**

- What select group is listed in this chapter? (23:8)
- Who was considered "chief of the Three"? (23:8)
- What story was circulated about Eleazar son of Dodai's endurance in battle? (23:9-10)
- What was the story of Shammah in the field of lentils? (23:11-12)
- What daring (and perhaps foolish) exploit was attributed to the three mighty men? (23:13-16)
- Why did David refuse to drink the very water he had wanted? (23:16-17)
- In what sense did Abishai receive greater honor, although he was not one of the Three? (23:18-19)
- What stories were told about the chief of David's bodyguard? (23:20-23)
- How many "mighty men" served King David? (23:39)

### **Reflect**

- What was special about the men in this passage?
- Which of the mighty men were famous for the large numbers of enemy troops they had killed?
- Which of the mighty men fought alone when everyone else fled?
- Which of the celebrated feats of the mighty men could be considered foolish?
- Besides accomplishments in battle, what feats made Benaiah famous?
- What qualities did all of these people have in common that made them valuable to David?
- How did the stories of the mighty men parallel some of the incidents in David's own life?

### **Apply**

- Which of God's mighty servants, past or present, can serve as an inspiration for your spiritual life this week?
- What difficult task lies ahead of you for which you can ask God to give you courage?