During his years as premier of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev denounced many of the policies and atrocities of Joseph Stalin.

Once, as Khrushchev was criticizing Stalin in a public meeting, a heckler in the audience interrupted with a shout, "You were one of Stalin's colleagues. Why didn't you stop him?"

"Who said that?! [Кто это сказал?!]" roared Khrushchev.

An agonizing silence followed. Then Khrushchev replied quietly, "Now you know why."

The repetition of the phrase "be strong and courageous" in Josh 1 is emphatic (vv. 6, 7, 9, 18). A new responsibility, a "dangerous" mission, and possible dismay loomed before Joshua.

God expected Joshua to rely on his promise(s) and his presence and to observe his law (vv. 1–9).

We too must learn to be brave (1 Cor 16:13; cf. John 16:33; Eph 6:10). Fears abound—fear of the unknown, of rejection, of pain, of death, etc. (Matt 6:34; John 12:42; 1 Pet 3:14; Heb 2:15).

How can we be brave?

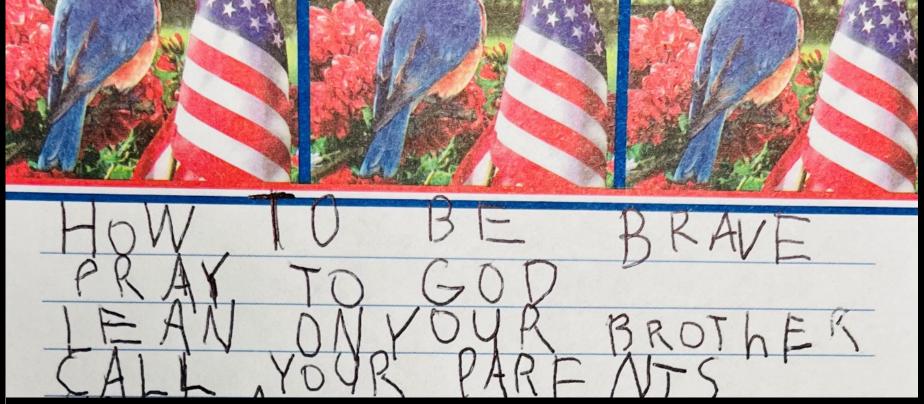




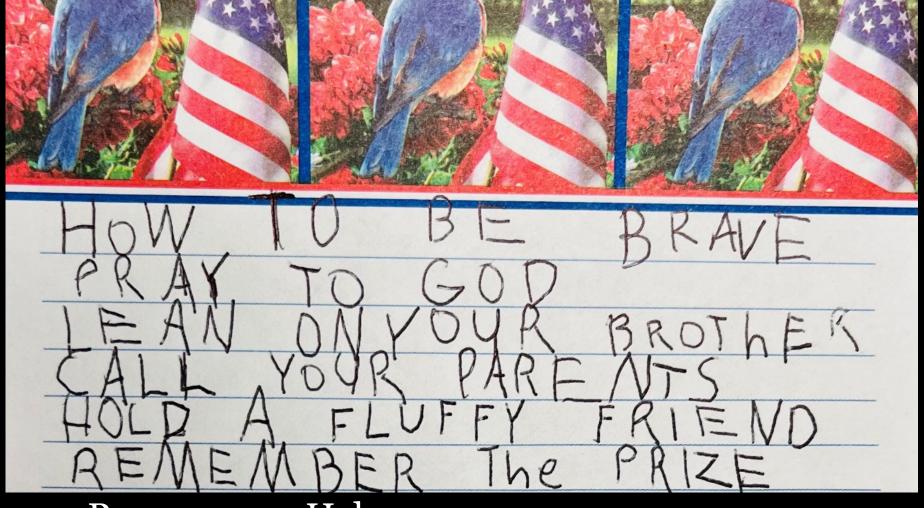
Acts 4:24–31; Neh 6:9



Prov 17:17; Eccl 4:9–10; 1 Thess 4:18; 5:11



Heb 13:7; 1 Cor 4:14–16



Ps 27:13–14; Heb 10:35–39