LEADER PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW: Students will learn how courage, perseverance, and miracles affect their daily lives and extraordinary destiny—and how to pray simple, bold, and specific prayers asking God for those three gifts.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:
1. **WHAT:** Students will understand how courage, perseverance, and miracles are theirs for the prayerful asking—through simple, bold, and specific requests to God—to help them in their daily lives and with their long-term, unique mission.
2. **WHY:** If you pray for courage, perseverance, and miracles to help you accomplish your life mission, you'll receive those gifts from God.
3. **HOW:** After learning about how to pray simple, bold, and specific prayers for three key gifts—courage, perseverance, and miracles—that affect their daily life and particular purpose, students will work with their Conversation Partner to help each other unpack the practical applications for their lives.

MEMORY VERSE: “This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9 NLT).

LEADER-FACILITATOR PREP:
- [Optional Icebreaker] Familiarize yourself with the “Find 10 Red Things” game and the lesson segue.
- Think about how you’d answer this question: What activities require courage, perseverance (stamina, not giving up), and miracles? [See Introductory Remarks for examples.]
BEFORE LESSON: Text Messages for Students [optional]
Customize one or both of these text messages to fit your needs:
• Want to face your fears? Join us at small group to learn how to find courage!
• What would you give for a fear-free life? Let’s talk about that price tag.

AFTER LESSON: E-mail for Parent/Other Adult Mentor [optional]
Customize this e-mail to fit your needs:

Dear ______________________,

We had a blessed time in our recent lesson of *The Way I'm Wired: Discovering Who God Made ME to Be*, as we took a close look at a topic that got the students talking about their prayer life: **Praying for Courage, Perseverance, and Miracles**. Our teenagers learned how to pray simple, bold, and specific prayers to ask God for those three gifts, which affect their daily life and the extraordinary destiny for which they’ve been wired.

**Major Teaching Point:**
If I pray for courage, perseverance, and miracles to help me accomplish my life mission, I’ll receive those gifts from God.

We gave examples of the easiest prayers in the world to say—simple prayers that allow them to boldly and specifically pour out their heart:
• God, take this fear from me: ________________________________
  I trust you to give me your courage. Thank you in advance!
• God, I believe you want me to persevere in this situation: ______________________
  I trust you to help me, even though I feel like giving up. Thank you in advance!
• God, I need a miracle in this situation: ________________________________
  I trust you to use your mighty power. Thank you in advance!

**Our Memory Verse:** “*This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go*” (Joshua 1:9 NLT).

As the opportunity arises, talk with your teenager about the lesson. These questions will help energize your conversation:
• **Courage:** How does fear keep you focused on yourself?
• **Perseverance:** What’s one area in which you need to persevere now? Why do you say that?
• **Miracles:** How would you describe your favorite miracle (past, present, or believing for the future)?

Prayerfully consider having a conversation with your teenager about your own inventory regarding courage, perseverance, and miracles. (If you’re using the parent’s companion book, *How Your Teenager Is Wired: Discovering Who God Made Your Teenager to Be*, refer to Chapter 8.)

Thanks for your prayers for all our teenagers. Have a blessed day!
OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER: 5 MIN
Before the teenagers sit down, ask them to gather in groups of two or three and talk about 10 things they see in your meeting area with the color red in them—any shade of red will do.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Isn’t it funny that when we concentrate on one thing, like the color red, it becomes our focal point, the center of our attention? We see it everywhere. The same goes for our fears, roadblocks, and doubts. If we focus on those, they take center stage. So, for this session, we’ll focus our attention on courage, perseverance, and miracles—and how to pray for those incredible gifts.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS: 5 MIN
Welcome your students and open in prayer. Then, ASK:

• What activities require courage, perseverance (stamina, not giving up), and miracles? [performing an open-heart surgery that lasts 12 hours; hang-gliding over the Grand Canyon; competing in a triathlon; fighting cancer; taking care of triplets; an attorney studying for and passing the bar; flying a fighter plane in a war]

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Well, in life you’re faced with constant choices to be a fearful quitter with no expectations of miracles—or to live with courage, persistence, and high expectations as you run toward God’s exciting and perfect plan for the life you’ve been wired to live.

LESSON FOCUS: 5 MIN
SAY SOMETHING LIKE: This lesson focuses on how courage, perseverance, and miracles affect your daily life and extraordinary destiny—and how to pray simple, bold, and specific prayers to ask God for those three gifts. If you pray for those three things (courage, perseverance, and miracles) to help you accomplish your life mission, you’ll receive those gifts from God. [Leader: If you worked through the materials yourself with your own adult Conversation Partner, share a few appropriate highlights.]

READ JOSHUA 1:9: “This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

ASK:

• Do you believe God is with you wherever you go? In what way is your answer based on personal experience?

DVD LESSON: 10 MIN
SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Let’s watch the DVD lesson to learn more about praying for courage, perseverance, and miracles. Open your Life Map to the note-taking section for this lesson.

Start the DVD for Lesson 4 and pray silently as the material is presented. Pray for your teenagers, by name, that they’ll learn all they need to know about how to pray for and
experience courage, perseverance, and miracles—and that their Conversation Partner time will be a turning point in their lives. Stop DVD.

**DVD REVIEW: 5 MIN**

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** As the video explained, courage, perseverance, and miracles are yours for the prayerful asking, by making simple, bold, and specific requests of the Lord.

- **“WHY” QUESTION... about God’s perspective:** Why does God want you to pray for those three things?
- **“HOW” QUESTION... about the benefit for teenagers:** How does persevering and expecting miracles, in spite of your fears, bring you joy or cause you to change for the better?

**CONVERSATION PARTNER TIME: 40-45 MIN**

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** In just a moment, it’ll be time to switch gears and go into your Conversation Partner time. We on the leadership team will be praying for your conversation—and we’ll also be coming around to observe the process. We expect you to focus intently on your discussion about praying for courage, perseverance, and miracles, so please don’t feel like you need to include us in your conversation. Just do your thing and do it well.

If you finish before the 40 minutes is up, please stay with your Conversation Partner and help each other memorize the Scripture verse; you also can focus on the suggested homework at the end of your Life Map. We’ll make an announcement when you have 5 minutes left to wrap up. Pair up with your assigned Conversation Partner now and head to a quiet place.

**Pray silently:** As you walk around, ask God to bless each teenager, by name, with Joshua 1:9 courage. (Ask for yourself, too!)

**CONCLUDING REMARKS: 5 MIN**

Bring the group back together and **ASK:**

- Starting now, how will your insight about courage, perseverance, and miracles affect your day-to-day living and (if you have a glimpse of it already) your unique life mission?

Give a quick summary or personal challenge. Then, **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** From our lesson, you can see the importance of praying simple, bold, and specific prayers for courage, perseverance, and miracles to help you live the life you were wired to live.

Just a reminder to take a look at the Homework Suggestion and also to memorize the Scripture verse—both of which can be found in your Life Map.

Close with a brief prayer.