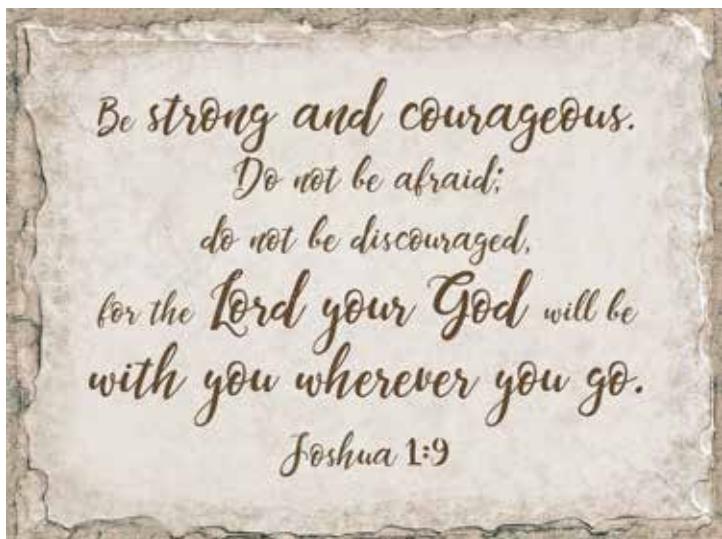


Icebreaker:

Can you share about a time something unexpected happened to you that wasn't funny in the moment, but in retrospect makes you laugh?

Discussion Questions:

1. Who do you know that inspires you by living a life of faithfulness to the Lord in the midst of difficult circumstances?
2. LeCrae has some wise words for us, "Don't be ashamed of your scars. They prove to wounded people that healing is real." What is something you have learned through painful circumstances?
3. How is your life different today than what you expected it to be? - Or - What dream did you have for your life that took an unexpected turn?
4. Each of us has a unique spiritual journey. How would you respond to the statement? "God is with you in whatever you are going through; he has not deserted you or given up on you."
 - o I'm not so sure about that. I'm looking for some answers about who God is, if there is a God.
 - o I know God is with me, and here's how that knowledge helps me when I'm going through hard times...
 - o I've heard that God is with me, and I think I believe that, but I don't feel God's presence
 - o None of those really describes where I am. "..."



"Uncommon Courage... in Unwanted Circumstances"

with Mary Schaeffer

September 13, 2021

Welcome to Ladies Latté!

We are so thankful you have come to Latté - a place where we can connect with each other and Christ over a cup of coffee. It's oftentimes in the most simplistic, casual settings that we encounter closeness with one another and the Lord.

Our prayer for you is that while the fresh coffee is being poured into your cup, Jesus is pouring out His Spirit in a fresh, new way in your life. With each sip, may you also be drinking in the blessings of fellowship with your sisters-in-Christ.

See you again on October 11th!

Jen Robinson, Latté Coordinator
jen.robinson@gracecma.org

“Uncommon Courage...in Unwanted Circumstances”

2 Kings 5 September 13, 2021

Often in life we find ourselves in circumstances we didn't ask for or expect and we don't particularly like. Life can feel defeating and our vision can become clouded. How can we "be strong and courageous" women in those circumstances? In our study tonight we'll see that our lives can be incredibly significant in those painful spaces.

When we find ourselves in difficult circumstances.

- She was a prisoner of war, a slave in a foreign country, away from her family and friends and all that was familiar. We don't even know her name, and we only know one sentence she spoke.
- Her "master" was a powerful general, the commander of a nation's army, and a trusted friend of the king. If there had been a "Who's Who" in Syria, his name would have been near the top of the list.

It's easy to become _____-_____ and bitter.

- By the standards of her day, she had nothing going for her—no power, no position, no possessions. John C Maxwell, *Running with the Giants*
- She certainly had good reason to be unhappy with her circumstances!

Or we can focus on loving the Lord and the people around us.

- Instead, her focus was on the Lord and serving Him by showing kindness to the people around her.
“Lord, help me _____ people like you _____ them and _____ people like you _____ them!”
- Even though it meant substantial risk to herself, she suggested that the powerful general, Naaman, look to the Lord for his healing.

God can work through us to do things we wouldn't even dream possible.

- This little girl's selfless act of courage and concern led to Naaman's healing as well as his family and two kings (Ben-Hadad, king of Aram and Jehoram, king of Israel) being pointed to the Lord! Who knows how many others met the Lord and had their lives changed because of her?! Her name may be unknown to us, but she was certainly known to the Lord for her courageous faith.

No matter how challenging your circumstances right now, the Lord has not _____ you or _____ on you. He wants to enable you to live courageously—even in times of crisis—so that you can experience the life He wants for you so that others can find Him, too!

NOTES:

You will find Latté messages you've missed online at:
gracecma.org/ministries/women/

BLANKS: self-absorbed; see, see, love, love; deserted, given, up