

Character Trait for January 2-7 is Boldness (courage)

Ephesians 5:1, "Therefore, be imitators of God"

CHARACTER: qualities built into our lives that determine our responses, regardless of circumstances.

Boldness: The confidence to do or say what is true, right and just.

The English *bold* comes from the Old English *beald* and *bald*, meaning "brave," and these appear related to the Old High German *bald*, which means "bold or swift" and appears in names such as *Archibald*, *Leopold*, *Theobald*.

Weekly Verse: I Chronicles 22:13b "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged."

Bible Story: For an example of someone having the courage to do what is right in spite of the consequences, read the story of the fiery furnace in Daniel 3.

Quote: "Courage is fear that has said its prayers."

Leadership: If you are in a position of leadership, you know there are many times when you are required to act with boldness or courage. One such time happened for me when I was in Colorado, and in the midst of a stressful personnel issue that was dividing the school and community. One of my friends gave me a quote that I have never forgotten, and it still hangs on the wall in my office. It simply says, "Courage does not always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying I will try again tomorrow."

Application:

It takes boldness to help friends or family members make better choices—or to confront your own inconsistencies. Many times, we wait and hope that the conflict or situation will resolve itself so that we don't have to take a stand or make a hard choice to be bold. Make a habit of addressing situations as soon as possible.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between being bold and being reckless?
2. What situations might arise that require boldness, even of young children or young adults?
3. What is one example of boldness that has been in the news in recent weeks, on a local, state, national or world level?
4. What is one example of boldness from the life of Jesus?