

BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS WIC THEME 2025

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DOURAGEOUS



TRANSFORMED LIVES TRANSFORMING CITIES.

By 2028 we see 5 vibrant church hubs across Sydney bringing holistic transformation to lives and communities. This will only be possible as Jesus continues His transforming work in us. This year, we will be expressing the vision through the theme of "Be Strong & Courageous" (BSAC).

"BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS"

In Joshua 1, Israel was entering into a new stage of inheriting God's promises for them. It was a time of leadership transition from Moses to Joshua.

This next season would require God's encouragement, God's word and God's help. Hence God spoke to Joshua at his commissioning saying: "Be strong and courageous!".

This is this same message God is giving to us to enter this new season for our congregation.

Jesus calls us in the same way, to step out in faith-filled obedience to Him.

Jesus' call to follow Him and be strong and courageous will have a powerful impact on our relationships, our community and our world.



What would it look like to boldly follow Jesus in:

Our work & studies?
Our families & friendships?
Our church community?
Our city?
God's global mission?

SERMON SERIES

- 1. Be Strong & Courageous
 Biblical principles of strength & courage from Joshua's journey (Joshua)
- 2. Courage: Jesus & the Disciples
 Jesus' words of courage & the courageous church (Matthew & Acts)
- 3. Strong & Courageous in Missions
 A global mission focus with following Jesus at the centre
- 4. Speaking Grace & Truth
 Addressing social issues in 2025 with grace and truth
- 5. Courageous City Building
 Principles of city renewal and city building (Ezra
 & Nehemiah)
- 6. Advent Responding to God's call with strength and courage

Bible study resources for this year will be a combination of in-house written studies (Series 1, 2) and external resources (Series 4, 5).



We are seeking to transform lives in this city through:

Revolutionising our prayer culture (eg. in-person prayer gatherings across City & Ryde)

Growing in discipleship decisions

Releasing and empowering people to serve God in their context (eg. Arts, Medical, Education, Corporate, Seniors, Cultural groups)

City & Ryde outreach opportunities

Mission Trips

Jerilderie, Kidsreach, H4K, Pioneers etc.

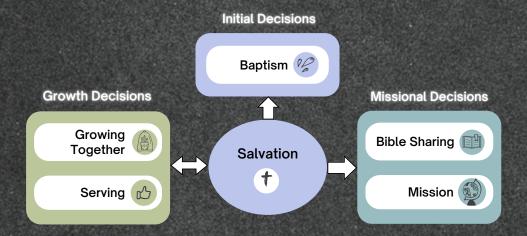
Developing church partnerships to impact the city

DISCIPLESHIP

Growing as committed followers of Jesus is a lifelong journey involving many steps and a number of key decisions. Whether you are a visitor or a long-term member of WIC, you are able to take the next step in your discipleship journey by making a key discipleship decision.



WIC 6 DISCIPLESHIP DECISIONS



NEXT STEP SUNDAYS

Everyone who attends WIC will be encouraged to make a decision to take the next step in their discipleship growth journey on our Next Step Sundays.

1. SALVATION

Attendees at WIC services, groups and programs will be encouraged - throughout the year and on "Next Step" Sundays - to make a decision to put their faith, trust and hope in Jesus and His finished work on the cross for them.

2. BAPTISM

Those who have accepted Jesus as Lord will be encouraged to take the next step of Baptism.

In 2025, there will be two official baptism Sundays on the following dates:

- 20 April
- 9 November

Baptisms may also occur on other Sundays, as required.

3. GROWING TOGETHER

The Scriptures are full of examples of believers meeting together in smaller groups to encourage one another and to grow in their faith. A key step in discipleship growth is to join a smaller discipleship group (life group) in the church.

Individuals may consider joining an existing life group or start a new one to focus on one or more aspects of spiritual growth, including Bible study, prayer, fellowship, outreach etc.



4. SERVING

Our faith in Jesus naturally leads us to love and serve others. Therefore, a next step in your discipleship journey could be to join a serving team within WIC and/or the broader Christian community.

5. BIBLE SHARING

All believers in Jesus are encouraged to share their faith with those they encounter in their world. The next step for a growing Christian is to help others discover and grow in their knowledge of Jesus by reading the Bible with a friend or acquaintance who is a pre-believer.

6. MISSION

All disciples of Jesus are called to be involved in Mission, taking the good news about Jesus to those who don't yet know Him.

A next step for you as a disciple of Jesus may be to get involved in local and/or global mission. There are many ways to be involved in mission, including going, sending, praying and supporting missionaries and mission partners.

TRANSITIONS IN 2025

This year we will be experiencing four significant transitions deeply connected to our vision. Please keep all of these in prayer.

- 1. Commissioning a new lead pastor in WIC Ryde (Q2)
- 2. Cory moving from WIC Ryde to WIC City lead pastor role (Q2)
- 3. WIC Ryde moving into a new building (Q2)
- WIC sending Andy to plant Wesley Western Sydney (mid 2025)

RECURRENCES 😛 INFANT DEDICATION / 🛨 NEXT STEPS SUNDAY / 🎕 BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP / 🦈 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SERIES | BSAC (JOSHUA) / O COURAGE: JESUS & THE DISCIPLES / O GRACE & TRUTH / CITY BUILDING (NEHEMIAH)

		JUN —/ Thank You Lord Sundays		DEC Advent / Family Services (21st & 28th) / Xmas Service (25th)
MAR	and Fasting / ♦		SEP	COME LET US ADORE HIM
7		MAY Wother's Day (11th) / H4K Mission Trip / W		NOV ● / ● / ♣ / KK Graduation (23rd)
FEB	Vision Outloays		AUG Missionsfest (3 & 10th) / •	व व
		APR	Macadad).	OCT .
JAN	DIGJC Camp		JUL Open Sermons / Kidsreach Mission Trip (Thailand)	



BOLD PRAYERS FOR 2025...

We encourage you to pray bold prayers for this year alongside the theme of "Be Strong & Courageous"!



My Bold Prayer for...

My work/studies:
My family:
My friendships:
Our church community:
Our city:
God's global mission:

BIBLE STUDIES



STUDY 1 PREPARING FOR A NEW SEASON

A) Relate

Reflect/Share about a time when you went through a significant season/change in your life. How did you prepare for that change? What helped you?

B) Read

Deuteronomy 31:1-8

C) Reflect

Moses had led Israel out of slavery in Egypt to journey to the land that God promised to them. For forty years they lived in the wilderness, unwilling to boldly take the land that God had given to them for fear of the inhabitants of the land. At this point of the journey, God already revealed to Moses that he would not be the one to lead them across the Jordan River into the promised land.

As Moses acknowledges this before the people, sharing with them that there will be a new season ahead, he encourages them to be strong and courageous for this season. May this passage encourage us in the new season we are entering into!

D) Respond

- 1. As Moses shares that he will soon no longer lead the people, what does he reveal that God will do in the near future? (v3-5)
- 2. In verse 6, Moses encourages the people to "Be strong and courageous". Based on this passage, why do the people need this encouragement, and what is the basis of their strength and courage? (v3-6)
- 3. Moses calls Joshua before Israel and encourages him with a similar message to "Be strong and courageous". Why was this important? From this passage, why does Joshua need strength and courage, and what are the reasons Joshua can be strong and courageous? (v7-8)



Read Deuteronomy 31:14-15, 23.

- 4. Moses encouraged the people, and then he publicly encouraged Joshua. How is that different to what God is doing in v14-15 and 23?
- 5. Now God is the One who encourages Joshua with the words: "Be strong & courageous", what do you notice is consistent about why Joshua needs this, and the basis for why he can be strong and courageous?

E) Rely

- Why do you think you personally need strength and courage from God?
- Why do you think we as a church need strength and courage from God?
- Take some time to release any fear, dismay or discouragement to God.
- Pray for strength and courage for yourself, one another, and the congregation on the same basis of the confidence we see in these passages: the presence of God, the power of God and the promise of God.

BE

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STUDY 2 A NEW DAY HAS COME

A) Relate

Share about a time when you took on responsibility from someone else because they moved on, passed away, or passed on the baton. What was it like? What helped you?

B) Read

Joshua 1:1-9

C) Reflect

In the previous study, we reflected on the encouragement to "Be strong and courageous" firstly from Moses to the people, then from Moses to Joshua, and then finally from God to Joshua. All of this happened whilst Moses was still alive and things had not yet changed. Today we reflect on God's word to Joshua right after Moses passed away. This was an expansion of God's encouragement to "Be strong & courageous!". Let the words speak strength and courage into our hearts!

D) Respond

- 1. What stands out to you about the instruction that God gives to Joshua? (v2)
- 2. What promises does God make to Joshua and what is to be the basis of his confidence in these promises? (v3-5)
- 3. In v6-9, God speaks that encouraging phrase again three times: "Be strong and courageous". It might seem like simple repetition, but each time gives God speaks these words to Joshua a slightly different nuance is given. What is unique about this encouragement in verse 6?
- 4. What is different about the encouragement in verse 7-8? Why do you think strength and courage is needed to follow the Book of the Law?
- 5. How should Joshua interact with the Book of the Law and what is the promise that comes with interacting with it in this way? (v7-8)
- 6. What is different about the encouragement in verse 9? How does strength and courage interact with and contrast against fear and dismay?



E) Rely

- Share how God is challenging you to be strong and courageous this year.
- Share about how this encouragement to "Be Strong and Courageous" links with:
- The promises God might be leading you/us to inherit?
- Our interaction with the Word of God?
- How we overcome fear and dismay?
- Write out and pray bold prayers for strength and courage in your life and in the church believing for God's promise, presence, power and provision! (See previous section to write out bold prayers)



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