

COURAGE ... to Lead & Laugh

Pastor Jim Garlow • Skyline Church • June 16 & 17, 2007

- **Courage ... to Love & Live** – last weekend.
How to remain appropriately vulnerable and caring in the midst of disappointment and betrayal.
- **Courage ... to Lead & Laugh** – this weekend - June 16 - 17, Father's Day.
Keys for successful "dad-ing."
- **Courage ... to Explore & Experience** – June 23 - 24.
Living the Christian faith as a quest! How to "energize" a mundane existence. God did not make you to be bored. What are the biblical models for zealous living?
- **Courage ... to Stand & Speak** – June 30 - July 1.
A fascinating weekend, including tribute to America's Christian founders – and what we can learn from them. (Celebrating the 4th of July on the 1st)

Week 2: Courage...to Lead & to Laugh

To Lead: stepping out, as a father, and giving clear statements of expectations – both by personal example and by constant instruction – in a winsome and compelling way that leads to personal and family health.

To Laugh: the ability to experience deep and memorable humor that makes family life truly fun!

1. The Courage to Laugh

- Parenting & l _____
- Parenting & c _____

A. Free to be creatively _____

- Proverbs 17:22, *A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.* (NIV)
A cheerful heart does good like medicine, but a broken spirit makes one sick. (TLB)

Conventional Wisdom

- Family that prays together _____ together
- Family that sings together _____ together

Garlow's Axiom of Family Life

- Family that plays together has some _____
- Family that laughs together is _____
- Family that debates _____ & _____ is _____

Rules for teasing / kidding

- edifying, never _____
- not _____ - _____, with hidden messages
- as much fun for the _____ as for the teaser

B. Cultivating _____ in life's memory bank

- *Laughter in the Walls* by Bob Benson

C. Free to discipline (say " _____ " & mean it) without _____; Create _____

- Colossians 3:21, *Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

2. The Courage to Lead

A. Understanding spiritual leadership

B. Free to be men

- Two choices for men:
 - ❖ be _____
 - ❖ be courageous enough to lead while _____

1 Corinthians 7:12-14, *To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.* ¹³ *And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.* ¹⁴ *For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.*

C. A Probing Question:

1 Corinthians 7:15-16, *But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.* ¹⁶ *How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?*

D. Results of leadership:

Ephesians 5:25-26, *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her* ²⁶ *to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word . . .*

E. Guidelines:

1. start _____
2. admit it is _____
3. ask for _____
4. don't quit when _____
5. ask for _____
6. read one devotional – ask your wife to buy it

F. Become a _____ in your home

COURAGE ... to Lead & Laugh

Pastor Jim Garlow • Skyline Church • June 16 & 17, 2007

- **Courage ... to Love & Live** – last weekend.
How to remain appropriately vulnerable and caring in the midst of disappointment and betrayal.
- **Courage ... to Lead & Laugh** – this weekend - June 16 - 17, Father's Day.
Keys for successful "dad-ing."
- **Courage ... to Explore & Experience** – June 23 - 24.
Living the Christian faith as a quest! How to "energize" a mundane existence. God did not make you to be bored. What are the biblical models for zealous living?
- **Courage ... to Stand & Speak** – June 30 - July 1.
A fascinating weekend, including tribute to America's Christian founders – and what we can learn from them. (Celebrating the 4th of July on the 1st)

Week 2: Courage...to Lead & to Laugh

To Lead: stepping out, as a father, and giving clear statements of expectations – both by personal example and by constant instruction – in a winsome and compelling way that leads to personal and family health.

To Laugh: the ability to experience deep and memorable humor that makes family life truly fun!

1. The Courage to Laugh

- Parenting & laughing
- Parenting & crying

A. Free to be creatively funny

- Proverbs 17:22, *A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.* (NIV)
A cheerful heart does good like medicine, but a broken spirit makes one sick. (TLB)

Conventional Wisdom

- Family that prays together stays together
- Family that sings together clings together

Garlow's Axiom of Family Life

- Family that plays together has some broken bones
- Family that laughs together is fun
- Family that debates theology & politics is noisy

Rules for teasing / kidding

- edifying, never demeaning
- not passive-aggressive, with hidden messages
- as much fun for the teasee as for the teaser

B. Cultivating fun images in life's memory bank

- *Laughter in the Walls* by Bob Benson

C. Free to discipline (say "no" & mean it) without discouraging; Create alternatives

- Colossians 3:21, *Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

2. The Courage to Lead

A. Understanding spiritual leadership

B. Free to be men

- Two choices for men:
 - ❖ be intimidated
 - ❖ be courageous enough to lead while learning

1 Corinthians 7:12-14, *To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.*¹³ *And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.*¹⁴ *For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.*

C. A Probing Question:

1 Corinthians 7:15-16, *But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.*¹⁶ *How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?*

D. Results of leadership:

Ephesians 5:25-26, *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*²⁶ *to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word . . .*

E. Guidelines:

1. start small
2. admit it is difficult
3. ask for help
4. don't quit when you fail
5. ask for forgiveness often
6. read one devotional – ask your wife to buy it

F. Become a hero in your home