

SHARING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

St. Joan of Arc & Courage

Courage means being brave in doing the right thing and standing up for our faith even when it's hard or scary.

IN DEPTH FOR STUDENTS

Courage is being willing to do the right thing even when it is unpopular or scary. God gives us the grace to know the right things to do, and the grace to actually do them. Sometimes we don't listen to Him and refuse to do the right things out of fear. For example, if you have ever seen another student playing alone on the playground and felt bad for him or her, that was God calling you to go be kind! Courage is the virtue that would help us choose to go play with the student even if we think our own friends might think we are weird. The more we try to listen to God and do what He asks, the more we grow in courage!

CONNECTION TO THE SAINT

is calling you! St. Joan loved God and spent time in prayer talking to Him. One day, saints started appearing to her and telling her to do something crazy. They said God wanted her to lead the French army in battles against the English, even though she was only a 13 year old girl from a poor family, and had no military training! With God's grace, she found the courage to tell the French leader what God was asking and, eventually, he believed her. St. Joan then led many troops of adult men in victorious battles until she was captured and killed at 19 years old. Without courage, St. Joan would not have followed God's will and the French likely would not have won the battles! God is calling you to change the world, too, so have the courage to listen to and follow Him, whatever it may cost.



OTHER RESOURCES;

- Saints Alive Podcast: [St. Joan of Arc + Activity](#)
- Image of St. Joan of Arc ([Britannica](#))
- Biography of St. Joan of Arc ([Franciscan Media](#))

PRACTICAL CLASSROOM IDEAS

- **Courage Journals:** Provide students with journals to reflect on moments when they demonstrated courage or times they struggled to be brave. Encourage them to write about how their faith helped them stand up for what is right.
- **Saint Spotlight:** Assign students a saint known for their courage, such as St. Joan of Arc, St. Maximilian Kolbe, or St. Perpetua and Felicity. Have them create short presentations or posters highlighting how the saint demonstrated courage.
- **Courage Quotes Reflection Wall:** Share daily quotes about courage from saints, Scripture, or Catholic figures. Invite students to reflect on the quote and write a short response. Post their reflections on a classroom wall or bulletin board.
- **Courage Art Project:** Have students create artwork depicting a scene of courage—whether from Scripture (e.g., David and Goliath, Daniel in the Lion's Den) or from their own imagination. Include a short description of the courageous act on the artwork.
- **Bible Story Reflection:** Read and discuss Bible stories that demonstrate courage, such as:
 - David and Goliath
 - Queen Esther
 - Jesus Calms the Storm
 - Ask students how they can show courage in their own lives, inspired by these stories.
- **Courageous Acts Recognition:** Create a "Courageous Acts" spotlight where teachers and students can recognize peers who demonstrate courage in daily life. Feature their name and a brief description of their brave action on a bulletin board.