



## Day 4: COURAGE TO LEAD: PART 2

### Scripture Reading:

Ezekiel 22:23-31 (ESV)

### Observation:

The passage of Scripture found in Ezekiel 22:30 has inspired a book “In the Gap: What Happens When God’s People Stand Strong” by Wilfredo De Jesús. Consider this thought from De Jesús:

A gap represents a place of weakness, vulnerability and danger and could be a social problem such as illiteracy, racism or human trafficking, or something more personal, such as a prodigal child, an unfaithful spouse, or an abusive family member. When he and his wife wanted to build a home, some of their friends advised them to live in the suburbs instead of inner-city Chicago. But he has stayed in the community where he grew up, despite being robbed and even receiving a death threat, because he wanted to be close to the church where he is pastor.<sup>1</sup>

God calls men to lead our families and communities. There are statistics that prove that children whose fathers were highly involved in their children’s lives were more likely to

- Have greater academic success
- Have more positive social behavior
- Have fewer conduct problems
- Have lower levels of depression
- Have reduced contact with Juvenile Justice System<sup>2</sup>

But one the most important statistics comes shows the most important influence a father has. It states: If Dad comes to Christ first – 93% of families will follow.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Wilfredo De Jesus, *In the Gap: What Happens when God’s People Stand Strong*, (Springfield, Missouri: Influence Resources, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> The Fatherhood Project, “10 Facts about Father Engagement,” <http://www.thefatherhoodproject.org/10-facts-about-father-engagement/> (Accessed October 16, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> Men’s Ministry, Promise Keepers, <https://www.promisekeepers.org.nz/mensministry/> (Accessed October 16, 2017).

**Application:**

- Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
- Do you have the courage to step into the role of leading your family to know Christ as you do?
- Write out a ninety-day spiritual growth plan for you personally.

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