**TERM TWO WEEK FIVE:**

**Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) Value Courage**

**1. OPENING PRAYER:** *(from the notices or this prayer:)* Let us pray: O God, you are my God; early in the morning I come to you. My soul is thirsting for you; my whole being desires you. O God, it is so easy for me to neglect this time of prayer each day. Sometimes I sleep late, and I am tempted to believe there is no time left to talk with you. Help me to keep my priorities right. As I go into the busy world today, I need your power and your direction. Give to me – humility so that I do not exaggerate my own importance; graciousness and gentleness so that I am a better person to live with consistency of effort and reliability so that I do my work well; alertness so that I can see quickly how to help those around me; your love so that I can understand how others feel, and be able to help them; the continual awareness of your presence so that I may consciously try to do

your will. For Jesus’sake. Amen.

**2. THREAD FOR THIS WEEK:**

The thread that we are considering this week is: Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) Value Courage

**3. BIBLE READING THIS WEEK:**

The Bible reading is written in: 1 Samuel 17:1-49 David and Goliath *(only part of the reading is here)*

David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s and he will give you into our hand.’ When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

**4. CONVERSATION:**

Some Bible stories are pretty extreme. The company “Time-Life” produced a series of DVDs about Bible characters and they are all rated “M” because each movie in the series has some form of “violence’.

In the story of David and Goliath, we see two armies facing each other in the traditional ancient way. The Philistines tease the Israelites and insult them. They call for a “champion” from the Israelite army to come forward and to fight their Philistine Champion, Goliath. No one comes forward until finally a very young David courageously takes on Goliath and beats him with a stone and slingshot. David would have only been about 13 or 14 at the time.

This story is about David’s courage, but it is about much more than that. David trusted that God would be with him and provide for him. His courage was based on his faith. St Paul writes this same message in the New Testament, when he says, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

The story tells us to seek God every day and to trust that God will be with us. Like David, we face the things that come our away, trusting that God has given us the resources we need to achieve what needs to be done.

**5. PRAY:**

We pray

God, you promise to walk beside me. Give me courage when the world is tough. Give me the kind of faith that calls to you for help and trusts that you will be there whenever I need you. Give me words of encouragement for those around me, so that I can help them to learn how to call to you and to trust that you are there. Amen.

**6. LORD’S PRAYER:**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;

Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**7. BLESSING:**

The almighty Lord order this day and all we do with his peace. Amen.

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**TERM TWO WEEK SIX:**

**Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) Value Courage**

**1. OPENING PRAYER:** *(from the notices or this prayer:)* Let us pray: O God, as I begin this new day, I thank you that you are our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. No matter what comes upon me in the course of this day, I will not be afraid. Help me, Father to dedicate my life to you this day, and to remember that, since I am your precious child, I can claim your power and promises at every moment. Help me – to live to you this day, doing those things that are good and honest; to avoid those things that could lead me into the pathway of sin; to be a comfort to those who are sad, a friend to the lonely, an encouragement to the downhearted, and a help to all who are in difficulty; to live this day so that do not cause others to worry, let down others who trust me, or hurt those who are close to me. So grant that others may see in me at least a small reflection of my master Jesus whose I am, and whom I love to serve. In his name I pray. Amen.

**2. THREAD FOR THIS WEEK:**

The thread that we are considering this week is: Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) Value Courage

**3. BIBLE READING THIS WEEK:**

The Bible reading is written in: Luke 22:54-62 Peter denies Jesus

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, ‘This man also was with him.’ But he denied it, saying, ‘Woman, I do not know him.’ A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, ‘You also are one of them.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I am not!’ Then about an hour later yet another kept insisting, ‘Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you are talking about!’ At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly.

**4. CONVERSATION:**

What is the opposite of courage? Is the opposite of courage “weakness”? Is the opposite of courage “fear”? Is the opposite of courage “cowardice”?

Peter does not show courage when he is in the courtyard. Jesus had been arrested and was going to be tortured. Peter was challenged by people around him, “Aren’t you one of the disciples of Jesus?” Peter denies it, Jesus looks at him and then Peter weeps for his lack of courage.

Then when Jesus dies and rises, he comes to Peter in love. He sends Peter to tell the good news of all that Jesus has done for us. From then on, we see Peter as a man of great courage. He knew the Lord was with him. The Lord forgive him. The Lord loved him.

When we feel that courage gone far away, this story of Peter reminds us to call out to the Lord. God promises to be with us and to help us. Knowing the Lord is near and keeps his promises has given great courage to many people throughout history. Even soldiers had learned a famous hymn about God’s nearness, “Abide with me.” This hymn gave then courage that God was present in the midst of battle.

**5. PRAY:**

We pray

Dear Lord, sometimes I don’t know what to do or where to go. Sometimes there are too many things to think about. Sometimes my worries seem to overwhelm me. Give me courage for the tasks that come my way each day. Give me courage to step forward even when things are not certain. Help me trust your promise to be with me. Help me to see how much you truly love me. AMEN.

**6. LORD’S PRAYER:**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;

Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**7. BLESSING:**

The Lord bless us, and keep us from evil, and bring us to eternal life. Amen.