

Brave Moms, Brave Kids
Excerpt (1) for blog post

My five-year-old son stood at the other end of our church pew and sang the words to “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” from the soles of his feet. His exuberance and conviction made the surrounding crowd turn and grin, and I’m certain also warmed them to the soles of their feet. I was proud of Ryan. My son *has* made the decision to follow Jesus, and as much as that sweet and spicy boy knows how, he *is* following Jesus.

It’s no small thing when your child declares his love for the Lord, publicly no less. But that pride and the tears of happiness that stung the corners of my eyes were soon replaced. The next line of that song says, “No turning back, no turning back.” It could cost Ryan everything to follow Jesus, and that knowledge churns my stomach. I go back and forth between wanting to fist bump his dad in pride and excitement and wishing the following verse did not say, “The cross before me, the world behind me.” It will take a heroic effort to follow Christ in this generation and the next.

It is so easy to be disenchanted and skeptical of today’s leaders. Our skepticism may have merit, but heroes of the faith are everywhere. We just need to know what we’re looking for—and greater still, our children need to be trained to look for heroes and emulate them.

The heroes will be the faithful. The parents who hold coats over their kids’ heads while it rains at the bus stop or the mom or dad kneeling in prayer when no one is watching. They may sit knee to knee with someone broken over loss, whispering the truth of Christ’s power over that hurting heart. Heroes are marked by integrity and a willingness to do the right thing when no one is watching. They are courageous—not foolish, but courageous—when fear could swallow them whole. They help when it hurts and stand when their knees shake.

Heroes finish the race. They know it will be messy, bloody, and hard, but they refuse to give up on their God just because the journey is difficult. They are faithful and can be counted on to do the right thing, to cling tight to the Lord over and over.

This is heroism, and if it has ever been needed, surely it is needed now.

Consider a moment when you came to the realization that someone exhibited heroism. What made that moment stand out as such? What reflection of Christ did they reveal?

