Courage lends a hand

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It is a warm autumn morning, and you are walking down the path to school when a classmate stops to tell you that he “forgot” to do his homework. He then pulls out his workbook and begins to do it. About midway through the page, he gets frustrated and asks you to give him the answers. You know this is cheating, but he is your friend, and you want to help him. What do you do? Do you give it to him? Do you stand up to him? Do you just walk away? Do you turn him in? Courage is one of the most valuable Laws of Life.

Courage is important because many times in life, you will be faced with tough choices, and you will need to make the right one, no matter what. When my friend asked for the answers to the homework assignment, I desperately wanted to help him, but, hands down, I knew it was cheating. I set my mind, said no, and walked away. Moments later, I watched as another one of my classmates approached him, ready with their answers. As they sat there exchanging answers, a teacher rounded the corner of the stairs, and discovered their crime. As J.K. Rowling, author of the well-known Harry Potter series, once said, “It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends.” It wasn’t easy for me to tell my friend no. However, in that critical moment when I had to make a decision to do right or wrong, courage came to the rescue. Even important and powerful people have to make tough choices. Recently, President Obama had to have courage when he made a hard decision. He could let the terrorist group ISIS get away with their crimes or risk the lives of men and women to stop them. He chose to help because he realized what they were doing was wrong, and he decided to do something about it.

Another reason courage is important is because there might come a time when someone is picking on you or a friend. In this situation, you will need courage to stand up for yourself or others. Once, one of my good friends was being bullied by a peer. I knew I couldn’t just watch that happen without doing anything, so I boldly stepped in and challenged the bully, “Hey, cut it out!” Facts show that more than half of bullying situations stop when another person intervenes on behalf of the one being bullied. This proved to be true in my situation because as soon as I interfered, the bully left my friend alone and sulked off, embarrassed by his actions. Without courage, I would never have been able to confront this tough guy. My courage in this predicament made a difference in the lives of both the bullied and the bully. And in mine. I learned that courage is not hard to find in a difficult situation.

In conclusion, courage is the most important Law of Life because you will need it throughout your life. Maya Angelou, author of several books of poetry and essays, once said, “Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can’t practice any other virtue consistently.” Next time you see something wrong, gather up all of your courage, and do something about it because if you just stand there and watch it happen, you are part of the problem, too. Remember, courage can make a difference in your life or the world’s.