



BE COURAGEOUS

God Encouraged Joshua | May 1, 2022 | 3rd - 5th grade

BIBLE PASSAGE: Joshua 1

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is the Bible? The Bible is God's Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.

CHRIST CONNECTION: God encouraged Joshua and promised to be with him as he led the Israelites into the promised land, where they would be victorious and find rest. We have victory over sin and rest for our souls in Jesus, who is with us always and leads us into the promised land of God's kingdom.

BOTTOM LINE: True courage isn't the absence of fear, but big faith in God.

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

BIBLE PASSAGE CONTEXT

We often think that fear is the absence of courage but it's more than that. True courage is not the absence of fear. Courage comes to us most often from the presence of another. That's the encouragement and challenge that God gave to Joshua. Why was Joshua encouraged to be strong and courageous? Because God was with Him. Why would Joshua lead the people into the promised land despite his fear? Because God was with Him.

When we know that God is with us and that God is for us, we can be strong and courageous like Joshua. The ultimate understanding of having God's peace because He is with us is found in Jesus and God's gift to us. We can face our fear of death because Jesus is with us and we can face our fears in life because Jesus is with us.

As you lead your group, lead them to see that God encouraged Joshua and promised to be with him as he led the Israelites into the promised land, where they would be victorious and find rest. We have victory over sin and rest for our souls in Jesus, who is with us always and leads us into the promised land of God's kingdom.

TAKEAWAYS

- True courage is not the absence of fear.
- The promise God gave to Joshua was the promise of His presence as He led the people.
- Jesus gives us peace and courage when we believe in and follow Him.
- We can be strong and courageous because Jesus is with us.
- **Bottom Line:** True courage isn't the absence of fear, but big faith in God.

People to Know

Joshua: one of the 12 spies appointed by Moses to scout the land of Canaan, chosen by God as Moses' successor to lead the Israelites to the promised land.

Small Group Prayer: "God thank You for going with us wherever we go so we don't have to be afraid. Give us courage and wisdom to obey You and tell others about You. Amen."

SOCIAL ACTIVITY: Choose Your Own Game

What You Need: Socials Book, 3 pool noodles, masking tape, stopwatch/timer, score sheets, plastic cups, candy worms, lifesavers, paper clips, paper, bandaids, sticky tack/gum, scissors, stacks of books, 100 index cards, 50 pennies, ,scotch tape, measuring tape, 3 pool noodle circles, cones, I Spy activity pages, pencils

Objective: There are 5 activities in your Socials Book, kids will help decide the game of the day.

Winning: The goal is to get everyone in your group to participate in a game.

As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game. Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important follow up questions to things you have talked about in the past.

What You Say: Ask this question: "What was something scary you have had to do? Were you able to overcome that fear? God's Word shows us that we have reasons to be strong and courageous. In today's story we'll hear what God said to Joshua, one of Israel's leaders.

Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku
Play the Bible teaching DVD/Roku

APPLICATION ACTIVITY: Encouragement Cards

What You Need: Encouragement Cards (2 cards per kid), markers, stickers, crayons

What You Do:

- Guide kids to find Joshua 1:9 in the Bible.
- Have them fill in the blanks on the cards.
- On one card, lead kids to write the name of a friend or family member who might be encouraged by knowing God is with them.
- On the other, instruct kids to write their own name.
- Distribute crayons, markers, and stickers for kids to decorate the cards.
- Encourage kids to give the first card to the person whose name they wrote on it and tell the friends about today's Bible story.

What You Say "When you feel scared, you can look at this card and remember that God is with you. One way we can obey God is by telling others about Him. Giving these cards to friends or family members is a great opportunity to tell them about Jesus. Let's look at our discussion questions now to talk about what encouragement can look like."

TRANSITION ACTIVITY: Everyday Courage

What You Need: Large dice, marker board, expo marker, eraser (or butcher paper sheet and marker)

What You Do:

- Before the session, write the numbers 1-6 on a dry erase board or butcher paper sheet.
- Next to each number, list a location or time at which a kid might need to be courageous. You get kids to brainstorm those locations if you need ideas. (at home, at school, in the car, alone, with friends, at night. etc)

- Invite kids to take turns rolling a dice.
- Read the corresponding location or time and prompt kids to discuss how they might need to be courageous in that situation.
- For example, a kid might need to have courage to stand up to someone being unkind at school.
- Remind kids that they can always ask an adult for help.
- They can pray and ask God to give them courage.

What You Say “We don’t always feel brave or courageous, but we can ask God to help us. In the Bible Story we heard today, Joshua was about to lead the Israelites into the promised land. God encouraged Joshua and told him to be courageous. Let’s pray for each other to feel more brave because we know God is with us all the time.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What should you do if a friend or family member consistently points out your mistakes?**
- **How can you encourage or build others up with your words?**
- **What are some situations in which we might need to be courageous?** Lead kids to consider experiences like making new friends, going somewhere for the first time, or standing up for what is right. Invite kids to share a recent experience where they needed courage.
- **How can knowing God is with us help us be brave?** Encourage kids that they are not alone. Remind kids that God helped the Israelites face an impossible task and succeed. Invite kids to consider God’s power, mercy, and wisdom in every situation.
- **Who can we encourage by telling them that God is with them?** Invite kids to think of friends or family who might be encouraged to know God is with them. Encourage kids to share about God when their friends or family feel scared. Ask kids if they can think of any other situations when it could help to know God is with them.

TRANSITION TO HOME: Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.

- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.