

Alley SG - October 12-13, 2019

Bible Story: Ready or Now (Moses and the Burning Bush / The 10 Plagues) • *Exodus 3-6:12; 7-12:42*

Key Question: What have you had to do that you didn't feel ready for?

Bottom Line: You can do what you should, even when you don't feel ready.

Memory Verse: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9 NIV)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask** kids to get into pairs.
- **Explain** the game.
 - At your signal, each person will hold up any number of fingers on one hand.
 - As soon as the fingers are up, each kid will quickly add up the total number of fingers and try to be the first person to shout out the correct number.
- **Play** several rounds with one partner, then increase the teams to three players and then four until the whole group is playing as one team.

2. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: Paper (1 sheet per student, per service), markers

What You Do:

- **Give** each person a sheet of paper and marker.
- **Ask** them to trace their right shoe prints onto the sheet of paper.
- **Collect** all of the shoe prints.
- **Tell** kids to turn around as you place the shoe prints in random places in your area.
- **Signal** everyone to race to find and stand on his or her own shoe print.
- **Scatter** the papers again, but this time have kids trade one of their shoes with someone else then race to find the shoe print that matches that shoe.

What You Say:

[Transition] "In Large Group today, we learned about a time when God asked someone to be courageous. It all started when he took off his shoes."

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Colored Gems (1 bag per group)

What You Do:

- **Sit** in a circle.
- **Place** the Gems in the center of the circle.
- **Choose** someone to finish one of the sentences below about courage.

- **Warn** the group that at any moment, ready or not, when they hear you shout, “PLAGUE!” they should try to be **the first to grab** a gem in middle of the circle. If they succeed, they can keep the gem until the end of the game.
- **Use** the answers kids give to launch a deeper discussion about their understanding of the quality of courage in a follower of Jesus. You can give each kid a different sentence to finish or have several do the same one.
 - Courage is . . .
 - When I’m not ready for something, I feel . . .
 - I don’t think courage is . . .
 - At school courage can look like . . .
 - Having courage at home sometimes means . . .
 - The most courageous person I know . . .
 - I’m most brave when . . .
 - I am a total chicken when it comes to . . .
 - My bravest moment was when . . .
 - When I have to do something that I don’t feel ready to do, I . . .

What You Say:

“Ready or not! We all face situations we don’t feel prepared for—even when we’ve studied, practiced, prayed, and done our homework. God will NEVER put us in a hard situation without being present with us to help us get through it. Courage kicks in when we step out and do what we should—ready or not.”

4. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Why do you think God sometimes puts us in new situations that are out of our comfort zones or that we don’t think we can handle? How could those situations strengthen our faith?
- What new things have you tried this past year? How prepared or confident did you feel in facing them? How has God helped you?
- What can you be doing now to prepare for the future in order to make a positive impact or change the world around you?

5. Verse to Take with You

What You Need: Bible, *optional:* chairs

What You Do:

- **Use** the following game to challenge kids to practice staying focused and alert.
- **Sit** in a circle—preferably with chairs.
- **Explain** that four people in the group must be standing at all times.
 - (Decrease this number if your group is small.)
 - Kids can sit down and stand up as often as needed but can’t stand for any more than 10 seconds at a time.
- **Continue** the game for about five minutes or until kids begin to lose interest.
- **Praise** the group for their focus and the way they worked together through a complicated challenge.
- **Invite** a volunteer to read aloud Isaiah 26:3.
- **Apply** the verse through discussion.

- Staying focused was a crucial part of the game we just played. How does Isaiah 26:3 help you know what to focus on when you need courage?
- What can you do to keep your head in the right place when you're in a situation that you don't feel ready to face?
- What does it look like to trust in God when you need courage to do what you should?

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bible, paper (1 sheet, per student, per service), pens

What You Do:

- **Read** aloud Joshua 1:9b to the group.
- **Remind** kids that Joshua 1:9 was a command and a promise that God gave to Joshua—one of Israel's most courageous leaders. Even though we are living many years later, the command and the promise are still true.
- **Assign** each sentence of the verse to individual kids or partners.
 - Group 1: "Do not be afraid."
 - Group 2: "Do not lose hope."
 - Group 3: "I am the Lord your God."
 - Group 4: "I will be with you everywhere you go."
- **Hand** out paper and pens.
- **Ask** kids to write a one or two sentence prayer built around the portion of the verse they just read.
 - It can be a prayer of praise and thankfulness, a request for help, or whatever they want to pray in response to Joshua 1:9b.
- **Close** by letting kids take turns reading their prayers.

What You Say:

"Dear God, help us to be courageous for You this week especially when we face situations we didn't see coming or feel unprepared to handle. Like You did for Moses, give us the power we need to do what we should do even when it's hard. In Jesus' name, amen."

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT "COMMUNION CALL"

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!