

Alley SG - October 26-27, 2019

Bible Story: The Stand (Twelve Men Check Out the Land of Canaan) • *Numbers 13-14*

Bottom Line: You can do what you should, even when others are afraid.

Key Question: How can you be brave, even when others are afraid?

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: Plastic Coins (10 per group), Paper Plates (10 per group)

What You Do:

- **Ask** everyone to choose a partner.
- **Give** each pair of students 2 plastic coins and a paper plate.
- **Direct** one partner to tilt his or her head back and place a plastic coin over each closed eye.
- **Direct** the other partner to stand at the opposite side of the room and place the paper plate at his or her feet.
- **Explain** that when you signal everyone to “GO,” the partner whose eyes are closed must listen for the verbal directions of his partner from across the room directing him or her to their plate.
 - Note that everyone will be shouting out directions at the same time.
 - Once kids get to where their partners are standing, they must drop the plastic coins onto the paper plate.
 - If the coins miss the plate, they have to put them back on their eyes and try again.
 - The winner is the first team to successfully drop the plastic coins onto the plate.
- **Switch** roles and play again.

2. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Invite** everyone to play a game called, “Stage Fright!”
- **Stand** in a circle.
- **Tell** everyone to look down at their feet.
- **Explain** that on the count of three everyone must raise their head and look directly at another person in the circle.
 - Any two people who are looking at each other must shout “STAGE FRIGHT!” then fall down dead.
 - They are out of the game until the next round begins.
 - **Repeat** until only two players are left
- **Play** again as time allows.

What You Say:

“Stage Fright” is a thing. No one drops dead from it, but they might think they will. Some of us don’t like to get up in front of an audience. We get nervous, our knees shake, our mouths go dry, and our hearts race. Being on a stage in front of a bunch of people can be a scary thing but not nearly as terrifying as the situation some people in the Bible faced in our story today. But God brought them through it, and He will bring you through your situation too!”

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Notecards (3 per student), pens

What You Do:

- **Give** each kid three notecards and a pen.
- **Tell** the group to secretly write three things they or others are afraid of—one fear on each notecard.
- **Collect** the notecards.
- **Play** a game of “Would You Rather” by randomly choosing two of the notecards to fill in the following sentence: “Would you rather *(read a notecard)* or *(read a notecard)*.”
- **Repeat** with the rest of the cards by mixing and matching different combinations.
- **Ask** kids to explain their choices and why some things are scarier for them than others.
- **Include** some of the suggestions below as needed or for variety.
 - move to a new place
 - feel embarrassed in front of your class
 - make a mistake the loses the game
 - lose a pet
 - spill your lunch
 - fail a test
 - wear an outfit you feel weird in
 - not get invited to a friend’s party
 - go to school after a really bad haircut
 - sing in front of an audience
 - go alone to an event where you don’t know anyone
- **Encourage** conversation by asking questions such as the following:
 - Do you think there are specific things **EVERYONE** is afraid of? Like what?
 - Is there ever a good time to be afraid?
 - What are some reasons why one person is afraid of something and another person is not?

What You Say:

“We all have stuff that freaks us out. It’s even more freaky when the people we’re with are afraid, too. We talk about being brave and courageous, but when we’re actually in the thick of a scary situation, it’s easy to wimp out and not do the right thing. For example, those times when you might need to speak up when a kid is being treated badly even though you might get made fun of yourself. Or when you have to make a hard choice to walk away from a situation that’s dangerous or unwise even if your friends don’t. We won’t always do courage right, but God will use our experiences to help us learn how to trust Him in bigger ways. And trusting in God is the secret to being courageous even when others aren’t.”

4. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, Bible Story Phrase Cards and Random Phrase Cards (1 set of cards per group)

What You Do:

- **Remind** kids that in today’s Bible story, ten of the twelve spies reported that they were afraid to attack the land.
 - Joshua and Caleb spoke up and reminded everyone that God would keep His promise and provide a way for them to conquer the land.
 - The Israelites listened to the voices of fear instead of God who had promised to be with them.
- **Play** a listening game in which one kid will listen for someone shouting a phrase about the story while everyone else shouts random, unrelated phrases.
- **Choose** one kid to be the “Listener.”
- **Assign** the following parts to the remaining kids but ask them to keep silent until you signal the whole group to begin shouting the phrase on their cards:
 - One “Bible Story Shouter”—Give him or her **one** of the *Bible Story Phrase* cards.
 - Two to eight “Shouters”—Give them each a different *Random Phrase* card.
- **Signal** the shouting to begin.

- **Allow** the “Listener” 10 seconds to discover the Bible Story Phrase from among the shouters then share how it relates to the story.
- **Choose** a new “Listener” then redistribute the cards so that a different Bible Story Phrase is being used by someone.
 - The remaining kids can exchange Random Phrase Cards or can come up with additional phrases.
- **Discuss and apply** the Bible story by going deeper with questions like ones below.
 - How are we like the Israelites in today’s lesson when it comes to fear and courage?
 - In what ways are we similar to Joshua and Caleb?
 - We all face situations when we’re tempted to listen to the crowd instead of God. What should we do when that happens?
 - Joshua had Caleb. Caleb had Joshua. It’s important to choose best friends well. Do you have a friend who helps you do what you should even when others are too scared to do so?
 - Fear can be contagious, but so can courage. What are some ways you can help others when they are afraid?
 - When you feel like fear is taking over and controlling you, what are three things you can do?
- **Challenge** your group to remember that when everyone else is ready to give up, God is ready to use them to speak up for Him and bravely do what’s right. Encourage them to be the voice that boldly shouts as Joshua and Caleb did—“The Lord is with us. Do not be afraid!” (Joshua 14:9b)

5. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Do you think we’re born with our fears or do we learn to be afraid?
- Why is it easier to be courageous in a group rather than on our own?
- What are some ways we can be more courageous together as a group?

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- **Invite** someone to read aloud Joshua 1:9b to the group.
- **Challenge** kids to memorize the verse together as you lead them in reciting it sentence by sentence.
- **Ask** the group to think of people who are often in situations where courage is required in order to do what they should even if others are afraid. For example:
 - Government leaders (president, congressmen, etc.)
 - Men and women in the military
 - Teachers and principals at schools
 - Pastors and church leaders
 - Missionaries
 - Us, as we try to be courageous in our schools, neighborhoods, and with our families
- **Ask** for volunteers who are willing to pray aloud for one or two of the people that were mentioned. Encourage the others to pray along silently.
- **Top off** the prayer time by asking God to give courage to each of your kids by name.

What You Say:

“Dear God, we pray for the many people around the world who need to be courageous even when others are afraid. We pray for ourselves as well. (*Name each kid in your group and pray a sentence prayer for each.*) You, Lord, are stronger than our fear, and we praise You for the strength You give us to do and say what’s right. 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!