

Alley SG—November 6th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: You Make Me Brave (Joshua and Caleb) • *Numbers 13–14*

Today's Key Question: What are people afraid of?

Today's Bottom Line: You can do what you should even when others are afraid

Monthly Memory Verse: *Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.* Joshua 1:9b (NIV)

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Paper, markers

What You Do:

- Set out paper and markers.
- Invite kids to design a logo that represents either fear or courage.
- It can be an abstract drawing such as a collage of lines, colors, shapes, and symbols or a simple drawing that depicts an act of courage or something that strikes fear.
- Let them be creative and not overly concerned with their artistic abilities as much as the ideas they want to share.
- Allow kids a few minutes to share their designs and the meaning behind them.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in an outward-facing circle.
- Remind kids that the fears of the spies were contagious and spread through the Israelites like a bad germ. Only Joshua and Caleb stood strong when others were afraid.
- Explain that you'll walk around the inside of the circle then randomly tap a kid on the shoulder.
- The kid who's tapped should immediately say, "GIANTS!" and squeeze the hand of the kid on their right, who will then *quietly* squeeze the hand of the kid on *their* right, and so on.
- The goal is to see how long it takes for the "squeeze" to go all the way around the circle and back to the kid who started it.
- As soon as that happens, tell that kid to shout, "STAND!" and everyone stand up.
- Start the stopwatch and begin time as soon as you tap a kid on the shoulder.
- After each round, ask the kid who began the game to answer one of the review questions below.
- After that kid answers the question, have everyone re-settle in their outward-facing circle, then choose another kid and repeat the game.
- The goal is to beat the previous times and correctly answer a review question.
- Continue until all the kids have had a turn and all of the review questions answered.

Review Questions:

1. What was the name of the land God had promised to give the people of Israel? (Canaan)
2. How many spies did Moses send into Canaan? (12)
3. What were some of the things the spies were told to find out about the Land of Canaan? (*What the people were like. Were there a lot of people in Canaan? Were the people strong? Did the towns have high walls around them? Was the land good for growing crops?*)
4. What did the spies use to carry the ginormous grapes they brought back? (a pole)
5. What was it about Canaan that scared some of the spies? (*the high walls around the cities, a lot of tall people*)
6. What are the names of the two men who weren't scared off by the thought of conquering the land of the Canaanites? (Joshua, Caleb)

7. What did the spies who were scared compare themselves to when they described the size of the Canaanite people? (*crickets or grasshoppers*)
8. What did Joshua and Caleb do when the Israelites started to panic and were ready to head back to Egypt? (*reminded them that God is with them, encouraged them to believe that God would help them defeat the Canaanite people*)
9. How many of the Israelites were allowed to eventually enter the land God promised to give Israel? (*two: Joshua and Caleb*)
10. How long did the Israelites wander in the wilderness as punishment for their unbelief? (*40 years*)

- Dig deeper into the story as you help kids apply it to areas of fear they may have.
 - Fear can be contagious, but so can courage. What are some ways you can help others when they are afraid? How can you be someone with contagious courage who helps others do what is right even when it's scary?
 - When you feel like fear is taking over and controlling you, what are three things you can do?
 - We all face situations when we're tempted to listen to the crowd instead of God. What should we do when that happens?
- Encourage kids with the fact that of all the spies who went into the land of Canaan, only two had enough courage to believe that God would provide a way for them to conquer the land. Like them, we all face situations where others are ready to bail, jump ship, throw in the towel, and call it quits. We might even be tempted to join them, but we know that God wants us to do the right thing, even if those around us are afraid. So God will give us the courage we need in those situations.
- Challenge your group to be the voice that boldly stands and says as Joshua and Caleb did—"The Lord is with us. Do not be afraid!" (Numbers 14:9)

3. Discussion Questions

- Today's Bottom Line is "You can do what you should even when others are afraid." Explain why you agree or disagree with that statement.
- Do you think we're born with some of our fears? If not, where do fears come from?
- Is there ever a time when fear is a good thing? Explain.
- Why is it easier to be courageous in a group rather than on our own?
- Joshua had Caleb. Caleb had Joshua. It's important to choose close friends well. What can you do to make sure you have a friend who helps you do what you should even when others are too scared to do so?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Stand in a circle.
- Read Psalm 56:3 aloud to the group, then practice saying it several times until kids are familiar with the words. (*When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3 NIV*)
- Tell everyone that on the count of three, the whole group will say the verse together while staring at their feet.
- As soon as everyone says the last word, "you," they should immediately look up and directly into the eyes of ONE kid in the circle without moving.
- If two kids make eye contact, they must both sit down and are out for that one.
- If your group is okay with a little noise, kids who make eye contact can also scream and dramatically drop down to the floor.
- Repeat until only one kid is left.

- Ask:

- How might a fearful kid change if they lived out Psalm 56:3?
- What are some ways we show that we trust in the Lord?
- How can we tell if we're trusting in God?
- How might a kid who's already fairly courageous be encouraged by Psalm 56:3?
- When might this verse help you this week in the situations you'll face?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Index cards, pen

What You Do:

- Remind kids that when most of the spies were afraid to attack the land, Joshua and Caleb spoke up and reminded everyone that God would keep promises and provide a way for them to conquer the land.
 - The Israelites let a wave of fear sweep over them.
 - Encourage kids this week to be careful not to be like the Israelites. Instead of melting into a puddle of fear or panic, God's promise to be with you then choose to trust.
 - God is powerful, loving, and wise. There is nothing that you can't face with God's help.
- Ask kids to think of people who are in uniquely difficult situations where there can be a lot of fear and pressure to go with the crowd instead of being courageous even when others are afraid.
- Write each person's name/title on an index card.
- Of needed, add to the examples kids come up with:
 - Government leaders
 - People in the military
 - Teachers and principals at schools
 - Music and movie stars
 - Pastors and church leaders
 - All of us as we try to be courageous in our schools, neighborhoods, and families
- Spread the cards out on the floor and invite those who are willing to take one or two cards and pray for the people written on them.
- Encourage the others to pray along silently.
- Close the prayer time by including the names of all your kids in a final prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, we pray for the many people around the world who need to be courageous and stand for what's right even when others are afraid. We pray for ourselves as well. (*Name each kid in your group and, if time allows, pray a one-sentence prayer for each one.*) Give us the power of your Holy Spirit to not be afraid. You, Lord, are bigger than any fear, and we praise You for the strength You give us to do and say what's right even when no one else is. In Jesus' name, amen.”