

CITY LG – September 13 - 14, 2025

Bible Story: Joshua and the Spies • *Numbers 13–14*

Bottom Line: God can give you courage when others are afraid.

Monthly Memory Verse: *When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you.* Psalm 56:3 (NirV)

WORSHIP

My God
Every Beat

SLIDE: Theme

Hey, everyone! Welcome! I'm SO excited you're here today! Give me a wave if you're ready for some fun! Awesome! This month, we're talking all about COURAGE!

Courage is when God helps you to be brave enough to do hard things. Sometimes God asks us to do things that feel big or scary, or maybe just things we don't feel ready to do. Have you ever felt like that? Like maybe you weren't big enough, or strong enough, or brave enough? Yeah, me too! But here's the amazing thing: God can help you have courage!

It's like our memory verse for this month says. It's Psalm 56:3.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Our theme this month is 'On the Move,' and we're definitely going to do some moving today! Are you ready to travel? To be a mover?

Awesome! Let's start with a super-fun game called 'Transportation Freeze Dance!' I'm going to play some music, and when the music plays, I'll call out different ways to travel, and you move like that! When the music stops, FREEZE! Got it?

Quickly demonstrate moving like a car, then freezing.

Okay, everybody, stand up! And then find some space to move!

Great! First up . . . let's be AIRPLANES! Spread your wings!

AUDIO: Play high-energy music

(Stop the music randomly and abruptly.) Okay, freeze! Great job, everyone! You are definitely 'On the Move!' This time, let's be something different. Let's be TRAINS! Everyone move on down the tracks!

Lead the game for several rounds, calling out different modes of transportation: airplane, train, boat, car, walking fast, skipping, hopping, camel, maybe even rocketship! Encourage fun movements. Stop the music abruptly each time for the freeze.

(After the last freeze) Fantastic freezing, everyone! That was some serious traveling! You know, God's people in our Bible Story today did a LOT of traveling. They were definitely 'On the Move'! But sometimes, on a big journey, things can seem scary, but since God is always with us, we can trust Him, and that can give us courage. He is the biggest!

In case you missed it, this year we're doing something amazing! We're going through the entire story of the Bible!

Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can get to know Him! So as we go through the stories of the Bible, we'll get to know God!

We're going to go through God's Big Story!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

Each week, we'll look at a story from God's Big Story. Adam and Eve were the first people God made. God made them to be His close friends! But they sinned, and it pulled them away from God. God wanted them to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore! God didn't go away, but people's hearts did. It was so sad. And everyone who was born after Adam and Eve was born with the same problem—they couldn't be close friends with God either.

And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

But God didn't want to leave things that way! So He started His great rescue plan. And this great rescue was going to come through a family! So God started His great rescue with a man named Abraham. God chose Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family. Abraham's family grew and grew and grew—just like God had said—and became God's people. Eventually, God's people were enslaved in Egypt. But then God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt to freedom in the wilderness. God had brought His people to freedom! That's where we are in God's Big Story!

Today, we're moving right along in the Bible to the fourth book—Numbers.

This book of the Bible is called Numbers because it talks about counting God's people as they were traveling. They were traveling to the land God had promised to give them! The Promised Land! Let's take a look.

VIDEO: Bible Story 9:44

Even though Joshua and Caleb were facing the same tough things as the other spies, they chose to focus on God. Their view of Him got bigger and bigger, and their fears got smaller and smaller. They trusted God, and He gave them the courage to face the tough things.

Joshua and Caleb showed us something so important. Check out our bottom line.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

God can give you courage when others are afraid.

When we think about Joshua and Caleb and the other spies, we can remember that God is always, always bigger and stronger than anything we face. And if we think and think and think about God's strength and His bigness and His power, our view of Him will grow bigger and bigger until the thing we're afraid of will get smaller and smaller in our minds! Other people might be scared, and that's okay! We can be brave because we know God is with us and He is bigger than anything! God is the biggest!

And this is really awesome, but we don't have to try and work up courage all on our own. God was with Joshua and Caleb, and God is with us too. When we choose to follow Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit to live right inside us! The Holy Spirit will help us remember God's bigness and will give us the courage we need, right when we need it. So we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us be brave at school, on the playground, at home . . . anywhere! He's always with us! Let's pray and ask God to help us trust that He is with us so we can be brave!

Dear God, thank You for the story of Joshua and Caleb. Thank You for showing us that You give us courage, especially when others around us might be afraid. Help us to focus on You and how strong You are, instead of on the scary things. Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to live inside us and help us be brave every single day. When we're afraid, remind us that You are with us and help us to put our trust in You. We want to go through our lives knowing You are with us, and You are the biggest. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING

We started supporting a new organization with our offering last month. We are going to help kids and adults who live right near us! Our mission is Shady Oaks Camp for People with Disabilities in Homer Glen, IL. Their mission is to give kids and adults the same kind of camp experience that kids without disabilities can enjoy.

SLIDES: Shady Oaks 5-8

I'm so excited that we are raising money to help Shady Oaks provide summer camps for people with disabilities!