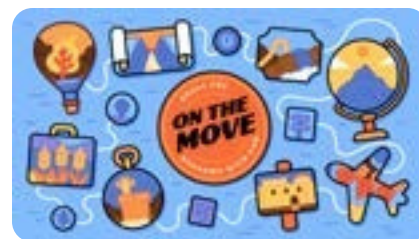


# Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



Supplies NOT included in the Activity Bags

## 1. Bible Story Review-Eye Spies Recap

- index cards
- markers

## 2. Application Activity- Courage Under Pressure

- Blow up the beach balls
- scotch tape

## 3. Memory Verse Activity- Puzzle Race

- Bibles

## 4. Pray and Dismiss

- index cards
- pencils

Today's Bible Story

## Joshua and the Spies

Numbers 13-14

Bottom Line

**God can give you courage when others are afraid.**

Memory Verse

**"When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you."  
Psalm 56:3**

Pray for your group before they arrive -

Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for already knowing each of their worries and the things they're facing. Whether they need courage at school, on the playground, or in their own homes—ask God to help the kids understand they never have to be brave alone because He is with them. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to help us and remind us of God's presence and His promises. Pray that God's Spirit would give the kids courage when they need it!



### Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

# Eye Spies Recap

## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Index Cards
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Timer



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Repeat the question multiple times and give all kids time to process and think about the answer.

## What You Do

1. Divide the kids into teams of 3-4.
2. Give each team two index cards and a marker.
3. Instruct them to write large letters on the index cards:
  - Card 1: "A" on one side, "B" on the other
  - Card 2: "C" on one side, "D" on the other

### Play Together:

1. Say, "Here's how we'll play: I'll read a question about the Bible Story with four possible answers (A, B, C, or D). Each team will have 15 seconds to quickly discuss and choose an answer together. When the time is up, your team is to hold up the card with the letter of your chosen answer!"
2. One by one, read the questions and choices out loud from the "Story Review" Activity Page.
3. Set the timer for 15 seconds, and start it you've read all of the multiple-choice answers.
4. Award points for correct answers and celebrate teamwork!

## What You Say

"Can you imagine being sent on a secret mission? That's what happened when 12 spies went to explore the land God had promised His people. It was exciting, and also a little scary. For 40 days, they saw two big things—the land was amazing with lots of food, but the people and their cities were BIG and strong!"

"Most of the spies came back and said, 'Nope. No way! The people are too big!' BUT Joshua and Caleb trusted that God was with them and that He was bigger and stronger than any people they faced. They focused on God, and their view of Him got bigger and bigger, while their fears got smaller and smaller. And that helped them have courage even when everyone else was afraid.

"God was with Joshua and Caleb, and He is also with you. When you choose to follow Jesus, He gives you a helper, the Holy Spirit, who lives in you. So you are never alone, and you don't have to work up courage on your own.

"This week, you might end up around people who are nervous, or scared to do the right thing. But you don't have to be! Focus and focus on God, ask the Holy Spirit to help you, and to give you the courage to face the difficult things you're facing. Remember, [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when others are afraid."

*NOTE: Look for opportunities to have conversations about what it means to make a decision to follow Jesus!*

Questions on the next page. ->

## QUESTIONS:

1. How many spies were sent to check out the land of Canaan?

- A. 5
- B. 8
- C. 10
- D. 12 (Answer: Numbers 13:1-2)

2. Where did God send His people after freeing them from Egypt?

- A. the wilderness (Answer: Exodus 15:22)
- B. The mountains
- C. A castle
- D. A big city

3. What did God provide for His people to eat in the wilderness?

- A. Pizza
- B. manna and quail (answer: Exodus 16)
- C. Rice
- D. Fish

4. Who were the spies who trusted God and believed they could take the land?

- A. Joshua and Caleb (answer: Numbers 14:6-9)
- B. Moses and Aaron
- C. David and Jonathan
- D. Peter and Paul

5. What did the spies find in Canaan that was so big two men had to carry it between them on a pole?

- A. A cow
- B. A giant watermelon
- C. A bunch of grapes (Answer: Numbers 13:23)
- D. A basket of fish

6. What was God's people's reaction when they heard about the powerful people (some of whom really were giants) in Canaan?

- A. They celebrated
- B. They trusted God and moved forward
- C. They were afraid and wanted a new leader. (Answer: Numbers 14:1-4)
- D. They built a city in the wilderness

7. What did God tell Moses to do on Mount Sinai?

- A. Build an ark.
- B. Write down the Ten Commandments. (Answer: Exodus 31:18)
- C. Fight the giants.
- D. Find water.

8. What was the special tent called where God's presence lived among His people?

- A. The Ark of the Covenant
- B. The Synagogue
- C. The Tabernacle (Answer: Exodus 25:8-9)
- D. The Temple

9. How long did the spies explore Canaan?

- A. 7 days
- B. 20 days
- C. 40 days (Answer: Numbers 13:25)
- D. 100 days

10. How many of the twelve spies were allowed to enter the Promised Land?

- A. 12
- B. 2 (Answer: Numbers 14:29-30)
- C. 40
- D. 100

11. Why did God's people have to wander in the wilderness for 40 years?

- A. They got lost
- B. They didn't trust God and obey Him. (Answer: Numbers 14:33-34)
- C. Moses forgot the directions
- D. They wanted to explore more

12. What is the key lesson from this story?

- A. Always listen to the tallest person
- B. Trust in God and in His presence, even when things seem scary (Answer)
- C. If you see a giant, run away
- D. Never eat grapes in Canaan

# Courage Under Pressure

## Application Activity



### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Beach Balls
- ☐ Pin
- ☐ Masking Tape



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Let the kids know ahead of time that the beach ball will be popped, so no one is startled or overwhelmed by the sound.

Allow kids to observe from a comfortable distance.

## What You Do

1. Before you begin, inflate a beach ball and secure it closed.
2. Gather the group together and show the kids the pin.

### Talk Together:

1. Ask: "What do you think will happen if I poke this beach ball?"  
(INVITE RESPONSES.)

### Explore Together:

1. Stick the pin into the beach ball.

### Talk Together:

1. Say, "Wow, that's what it can feel like when fear gets the best of us. We lose courage and feel 'deflated' like this beach ball. Let's see what happens next."

### Explore Together:

1. Blow up another beach ball and secure it closed.
2. Read the scenarios below one at a time, and call on kids to respond to them.
3. For each kid who shares an idea, encourage them to press a small strip of masking tape firmly onto the same spot of the beach ball.  
→ The end result will be that the beach ball has several pieces of tape on the same spot.)
4. After all the scenarios, poke the beach ball through the taped spot with the pin. This time it should not pop!
5. End by explaining how, when we ask God for courage, He gives us strength to face difficult things—just like the tape gave the beach ball strength.

### Scenarios:

1. You are starting at a new school and don't know anyone. Do you ask God for courage to introduce yourself to new people, or do you stay afraid and keep to yourself?
2. Most kids at lunch are laughing at someone behind their backs. Do you ask God for courage and stand up for them, even when others aren't?
3. Everyone in your Small Group, including you, feels nervous about praying out loud. Do you ask God for courage to go first, or do you stay quiet?
4. Your team doesn't want to include the new kid at practice because they're different. Do you ask God for courage and invite them to join you, even if your teammates say no?

Continued on the next page. ->

# Courage Under Pressure

## Application Activity



### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Beach Balls
- ☐ Pin
- ☐ Masking Tape



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Let the kids know ahead of time that the beach ball will be popped, so no one is startled or overwhelmed by the sound.

Allow kids to observe from a comfortable distance.

## What You Say

"Have you ever felt nervous or afraid? Like you just want to deflate and hide? (INVITE RESPONSES.) Fear can sneak in during lots of moments, like when you're the only one choosing what's right, when you need to speak up, or when you're trying something new.

"Did the second beach ball pop when we added tape? (INVITE RESPONSES.) Nope! That's because the tape gave it strength. And when we follow Jesus, God gives us the strength to face anything! God is the biggest! He is the strongest, the mightiest, the most powerful—and He lives inside of us! And when we know the strongest is with us, that can give us courage to face whatever difficult thing has come our way. Others may be afraid, and that's okay! God can give us the courage to do what is right when others are afraid.

"This is why I'm so glad God sends the Holy Spirit to help us! Not only does He make us stronger, like the tape on the beach ball, He can guide us in how to be more like Jesus in every situation. So He can help us see what to do AND give us the courage to do it.

"Maybe there's a new kid at school or a teammate who feels left out, and no one is making an attempt to help. How might the Holy Spirit lead you to take a brave step and help them feel welcomed? (INVITE RESPONSES.) And what about when you see someone being treated unfairly and no one else is willing to do what's right? What could you do to help? (INVITE RESPONSES.) That's right!

"The Holy Spirit can help you know what to do AND give you the courage to do it! You're never alone when you follow Jesus. The same God who helped Joshua and Caleb is with YOU! You can always trust that [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when others are afraid."

Make It Personal → Share an age-appropriate time when God gave you the courage to help someone when other people were afraid to help them. Maybe you stood up for a friend when no one else was. Or perhaps you helped someone whom everyone else was ignoring or walking past.

# Puzzle Race

Memory Verse  
Activity



## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Verse Pieces" Activity Page

## Inclusive Pro Tips



Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Work in pairs or as a whole group.

## What You Do

1. Give each kid a Bible.
2. Direct the kids to look up Psalm 56:3 using the Bible Navigation tips below.
3. Repeat the verse together several times.
4. Take a moment to explain any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

### Move Together:

1. Review the verse motions from Week 1.
  - When I'm afraid, (Make a frightened face.)
  - I put my trust (Cup hands together.)
  - in you. (Point both fingers to the sky.)
  - Psalm 56:3 (Hold hands like an open Bible.)

### Play Together:

1. Divide the kids into two teams.
2. Give each team a mixed-up set of puzzle pieces from the "Verse Pieces" Activity Page.
3. Say, "When I say 'Go!', your team is to race to put the puzzle together. Once the verse is in order, recite it out loud as a team."

## What You Say

"Awesome job, everyone! I loved seeing you all work together. Psalm 56:3 was written by a man named King David. Sometimes people were chasing David, so he had plenty of experience with fear. But instead of letting fear take over, David made a choice. He said, 'I put my trust in You, God.' And guess what? You can do the same. This verse reminds us that when we feel nervous, afraid to stand up for what's right, or even left out, we can trust God! We can stop, breathe, and ask God to give us courage. This week, when everyone around you is afraid, choose to take a step and trust God [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when others are afraid."

### \*Finding verses with 2nd-3rd graders

1. Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (HOLD UP A BIBLE OPENED TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS TO SHOW THE KIDS WHAT THE PAGE LOOKS LIKE.)
2. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list.
3. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
4. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter.
5. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

# Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity



## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

☐ *Optional: Index Cards and Pencils*



## Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Be mindful of kids who may not want to pray out loud. Assure them that God hears every prayer—even the ones that aren't spoken aloud!

## What You Do

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Remind the kids that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything!
3. Ask: "What do you need courage for this week?"
  - For example, kids might say: "to stand up for a classmate who's being mistreated," or "to apologize to a friend."
  - Optional: Set out index cards and pencils for kids who might prefer to write or doodle their prayer requests.
4. Close in prayer, pausing to pray for each kid by name.

## What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for each of my friends here today. (NAME EACH KID IN YOUR GROUP AND PRAY A SENTENCE PRAYER FOR EACH ONE AS THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS YOU.) Fill us with courage! You, God, are bigger than anything we face! That means You are bigger than any fear. Help us believe that You are the biggest! Give us courage to do and say what's right and stand up for what You would even when other people are afraid. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share this month's Memory Verse, Psalm 56:3, and why it matters!