

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



Supplies that are NOT included in Activity Bags:

1. Bible Story Review- Spy Game

2. Application Activity- Paper Bag Puppet Theater

- glue sticks
- scissors
- markers

3. Memory Verse Activity- Right on Target!

- Bible marked at Psalm 56:3
- Floor Tape
- Toy Cars

4. Pray and Dismiss

Pray for your group before they arrive

Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time.

Thank God for the kids in your group and the unique ways He has made them!

Recall a time God gave you the courage to help someone in need.

Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to guide you. Ask God to help you remind the kids that they don't have to be afraid to help others because God is always with them.

Pray that the kids would understand that helping others is not about getting attention, but about sharing God's love with others. Ask God to help the kids recognize when He is leading them to take action.

Today's Bible Story

Rahab Helps the Spies

Joshua 2

(Supporting: Joshua 6:22-25)

Bottom Line

God can give you courage to help someone in need.

Memory Verse

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

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.

Spy Game

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ "Story Adventure" Activity Page- Sheets on next 2 pages so you can look at them ahead of time



Inclusive Pro Tips

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

Make sure the cards are at a reachable level for all kids.

What You Do

1. Before you begin, hide the "Story Adventure" Activity Page cards around your group space.
2. Gather the kids together.
3. Say, "Today we're going to go on an adventure as we review what happened with Rahab and the spies!"
4. Explain how to play:
 - Lead the kids to follow you to locate one of the cards. Show them what a card looks like!
 - On your go, kids will travel together around the room to locate the rest of the "Story Adventure" Activity Page cards—there are eight total.
 - As they get closer to finding each card, you can say things like, "You are getting closer!" Or: "You're far away!"
 - Once the kids find a card, instruct them to bring it back to you.
 - Play until all eight cards are collected!
5. Celebrate the kids for finding the images. 6. Work together with your group to place the cards in order.
7. Before reading each card, ask:
 - "What do you see happening in this picture?"
8. Once the cards are in order, read the cards aloud.

What You Say

"WOW! Rahab saw that the one, true God is strong and good, and she chose to believe in Him even though the people in her city didn't. THAT'S where her courage came from. It wasn't just her being brave—it was God helping her to be brave!"

"Rahab knew the spies worshipped the one true God, and she wanted to be a part of God's team, His family, too! So she helped the spies when they needed help. Because of her courage, she and her family were saved when God's people entered Jericho! It was a BIG risk for sure. And guess what? God protected Rahab and her family just like the spies promised. And Rahab not only became an important member of God's family, God was so proud of her trust that He made her a great-great-many-times-great-grandmother of Jesus!"

"God can give you courage too! So when you see someone who needs help, on the playground, at school, or anywhere, [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage to help someone in need."

Make It Personal → Tell your few about an age-appropriate time you saw a need and God gave you the courage to help. Maybe you stood up for a friend. Or maybe you helped pack meals for the homeless. Or you helped someone who fell on the playground. Talk about how God helped give you courage to help!

1



"God told Joshua: *'Be strong and brave! I will give you this land.'*"
(Joshua 1:6, NIV)

1



2



"Joshua sent two spies to sneak into the land. They crossed the Jordan River into Jericho."

2

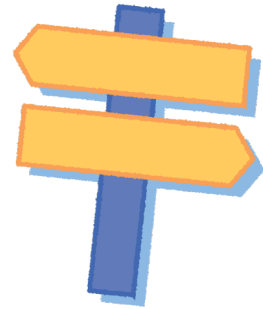


3



"A woman named Rahab hid the spies at her house."

3

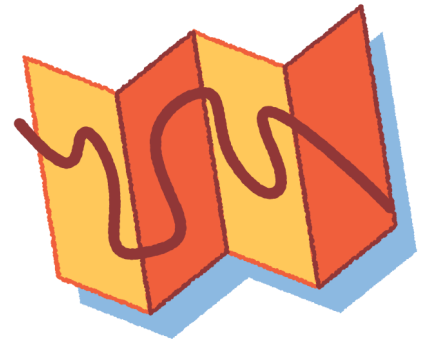


4



"The king of Jericho was afraid! He sent messengers to find the spies."

4

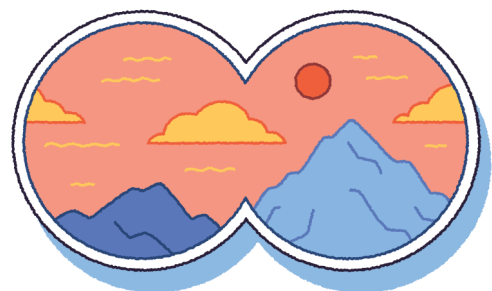


5



"Rahab hid the spies on her roof, and told them to stay still."

5

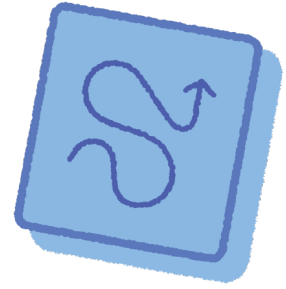


6



"Rahab lowered the spies out the window on a red rope so they could escape safely. They promised to keep her and her family safe!"

6

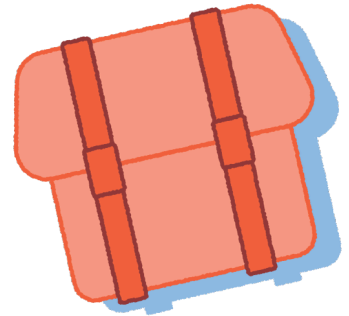


7



"God's people marched around the city. On the seventh day, the walls came tumbling down!"

7



8



"The spies rescued Rahab and her whole family, just like they promised."

8



Courage-In-Action Chain

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Paper Lunch Bags
- ☐ Construction Paper
- ☐ Glue Sticks
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Safety Scissors
- ☐ Puppet Example



Inclusive Pro Tips

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

Offer pre-cut shapes, stickers, and adaptive scissors.

Repeat the instructions one step at a time and offer frequent encouragement.

What You Do

1. Gather the kids together in a circle.
 - This activity can be done on the floor or at a table—whichever works best for your group!
2. Give each kid a paper lunch bag.
3. Show the puppet example and demonstrate how to place their hands inside like a puppet!
4. Set out the markers, scissors, glue sticks, and construction paper.
5. Invite the kids to decorate their puppet however they'd like.
 - Kids can draw eyes on the flap (bottom of the bag) and a mouth under the flap.
 - They can cut and glue construction paper to make clothes or hair.
6. Divide the kids into groups of two. It's okay if there's a group of three.
7. Instruct the kids to face each other with their finished puppets.
8. Read the scenarios below, one at a time, and let the kids use the puppets to act out how they might respond to show courage and help in that situation.

Scenarios:

1. Scenario 1: A kid in your class keeps getting left out by others. When you play a game at school, this kid is always picked last. How can you show courage and include them?
2. Scenario 2: A kid fell off the swings at the playground, and everyone around them won't stop laughing. You can tell the kid is hurt, but no one is doing anything.

What You Say

"I love your puppets, friends! And, I love hearing you talk through what you might do in each of these scenarios! God is full of love and kindness. He sees EVERYONE! And He loves to give us the courage to be kind like He is! When we are kind like He is, we are showing people that God loves them too!"

"And you aren't on your own when you're kind like Jesus! When you decided to follow Jesus, God moved inside of you through His Holy Spirit. He is closer than close! And as you go throughout your day, you'll feel a nudge from Him to help and do something. Maybe it's a classmate who's being left out, or a sibling who's struggling with something. They need help! And God will give you the courage and the strength to help! So just do what you feel Him nudging you to do. Jesus' very Spirit will lead you to be kind like He is!"

"I'm SO happy we don't have to be brave alone. God is always with us and wants to help us. This week, ask: 'God, please give me courage to help someone in need.' Because God will give you all the courage you need to help! He cares for you and for all the needs around you. He is kind and He loves people so much! Is there someone God is telling you to be brave and stand up for? [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage to help someone in need."

Right on Target!

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Bible marked at Psalm

56:3

☐ Floor Tape

☐ Toy Cars


Inclusive Pro Tips

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

Allow for extra processing time and repeat the verse several times.

Allow kids to roll the car from wherever is most comfortable (from their chair, wheelchair, or from the floor).



①

What You Do

1. Invite an older kid to read Psalm 56:3 to the group from the marked Bible. (Or read it yourself, if needed!)
2. Lead the kids to repeat the Memory Verse together several times.
3. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
4. Use floor tape to create two circles like a bullseye target on the floor—like this @.
5. Tape a starting line just a few feet away from the target.
6. Give each kid a toy car. If you don't have a toy car for each kid, let them take turns.
7. Explain how to play:
 - Invite kids to line up, side-by-side, and take turns rolling their cars toward the target.
 - If a car lands inside the target, the group is to repeat the Memory Verse together aloud.
 - If a car lands in the center of the target, the leader is to say the verse with lots of energy!
8. Continue until every kid gets a turn.
9. Gather the kids to discuss.

②

What You Say

“That was super-fun! This verse is a BIG truth for us to remember. Who should we put our trust in? (INVITE RESPONSES.) God—that’s right! We can put our trust in God. Why? Well, because of WHO God is! God is strong. God is kind. God always keeps His promises. And, God will never leave us alone. Friends, that’s why we can put our trust in God. Before we do anything brave, before we face fears, and before we help anyone—we can say this truth out loud: ‘When I’m afraid, I put my trust in You, God!’ That’s a promise we can all hold onto!”

“No matter how big or small the situation is, God is always with you. God gives you His courage, not just regular courage. The kind of courage that helps you do the right thing even when it’s hard. He is with us and promises to give us all the courage we need! You can put your trust or confidence in God, because [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage to help someone in need.”

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ No Supplies Needed


Inclusive Pro Tips

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

If a kid needs more space, allow them to sit outside the circle and still be included.

Offer adaptive seating or fidget tools to all kids.

①

What You Do

1. Sit in a circle with your group.
2. Explain to kids that prayer is a conversation we can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything!
3. Say, "Let's think of someone who might need help this week. It could be someone at school, home, or someone you saw who needed something."
4. On the count of three, invite the kids to whisper the name of the person they thought of.
→ If kids don't want to whisper the name, allow them to draw a heart in the air to show they have someone in mind.
5. Give the kids one minute to talk to God about that person.
6. Close in prayer.

②

What You Say

"God, thank You for always being with us. Thank You for loving us and sending Jesus to rescue us so that we can have a friendship with You—forever! Thank You for being so close to us through Your Holy Spirit. Teach us to listen to Him. And give us Your strength and courage when we see a need to so we can help! We love You so much, God. Thank You for loving us first. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their paper bag puppets as they talk about how [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage to help someone in need.