

3-6 | September 21

**Bible Story:** Rahab / The Promised Land • *Joshua 2 (supporting: Joshua 6:22-25)*

**Conversation Starter:** How can you show someone you care?

**Bottom Line:** God can give you courage to help someone in need.

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

*Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the people in their lives who have helped them. Recall a time when someone showed up for you when you needed it most. Thank God for placing people in your life to help you. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom to know when and how to step in for others. Ask God to help the preteens understand that they don't have to be afraid to help others because He is always with them. Pray that they would understand that helping isn't about getting recognition but it's about showing God's love. Pray that the Holy Spirit would help them become more aware when someone is in need and have the courage to step up and take action!*

## 1. Opening Activity

**What You Need:** Offering container, and one of the worship loops

### What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Divide the kids into groups of two—it's okay if there's a group of three.
- Encourage them to create a "secret handshake."
- Suggest some of the following movements to include:
  - High five
  - Fist bump
  - Elbow tap
  - Spin
  - Finger wiggle
  - Clap behind the back
- Play some upbeat music in the background to keep the energy high!
- Gather the group together to discuss.

### What You Say:

"It was so fun watching you all come up with 'secret handshakes!' Speaking of secrets, **[Transition] in today's true story from the Bible, we'll discover a woman named Rahab who took a huge risk to hide some spies from God's family and keep them a secret. God helped her make a brave choice to help others! Let's go find out what happened!"**

### **Inclusive Pro Tips:**

- This activity can be done sitting down or standing up. Have the kids participate in whatever way works best for the group.
- Some kids might not enjoy the physical aspect of a handshake. Kids can create no-contact handshakes using fun movements like waves, snaps, or facial expressions.

Lead your group to do worship and watch today's video lesson.

## 2. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Index cards, pencils, and a timer

### **What You Do:**

- Divide the kids into groups of three. It's okay if there's a group of two.
- Give each group six index cards and one pencil.
- Explain how to play:
  - "We're going to look for real ways to live for God by being brave and helping others."
  - "I'm going to read a scenario where someone needs help. You'll have 60 seconds to come up with a way to help, and one of you will draw it with your eyes closed!"
- After reading each scenario (from the "Help Scenarios" listed below), start the timer for 60 seconds. The groups must quickly discuss it and choose one person to draw their response with their eyes closed.
- Before reading the next scenario, invite groups to share their solutions and drawings!
  - *NOTE: This game is fun, fast, and not a drawing contest. Have fun with it and make sure there isn't any pressure on how kids draw!*
- Continue until all the scenarios have been drawn.
- ***[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of a time God gave you the courage to help someone. Maybe it was a time you spoke up for someone who was hurting. Or maybe you included someone new.)***
- Explain to the kids that they don't have to be brave alone. God is always with them. And when someone chooses to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to help them! The Holy Spirit will nudge them throughout the day, sharing ways to be kind like He is, and then He'll give them the strength and courage to do it!
- Encourage kids to pray to God and ask Him to help them be brave and show love to someone who needs help.

### **Help Scenarios:**

- A kid in your class is getting picked on at recess by another group of kids.
- You hear a rumor being shared about someone, and you know it's not true.
- A new kid at church or school doesn't know anyone and sits by themselves.
- You notice your teacher seems overwhelmed.
- Someone in your friend group gets left out of a game.
- Your sibling (or cousin) is really scared about something.

### ***Inclusive Pro Tips:***

- Offer verbal examples for kids to imagine what to draw.
- Allow kids to participate verbally.
- Draw visual examples and allow kids to copy or point to the example they choose.

### 3. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Bowl, and “Five Words” Activity Page

**What You Do:**

- Before you begin, place the ten cards from the “Five Words” Activity Page in the bowl.
- Gather the kids together.
- Explain how to play:
  - Each kid will draw a card with a word from today’s Bible Story (such as a person, place, or object).
  - On their turn, they’ll tell the group **five things** about that word (words that describe a person, or what color something is, what it does, what it’s near, what it’s made of, or who used it).
  - For example, if the word is “Rahab,” someone might say, “Brave, woman, Jericho . . .”
  - Give the kids a chance to try and come up with their own five words before offering help.
  - Encourage the rest of the kids to guess what the word from the Bible Story is from the kid’s five things.
  - Once a card is guessed correctly, ask: “How does this word relate to today’s Bible Story?”
- Continue until all the cards have been guessed.
- Tell the kids that Rahab took a huge risk helping the spies. Even though she wasn’t a member of God’s family like the two spies, she chose to trust God, and God gave her courage!
- Explain that when they choose to be brave and help someone else (maybe a kid getting picked on or someone who sits alone at lunch), others can see God’s love and kindness at work!

***Inclusive Pro Tips:***

- Allow kids to play as “guessers” for the entire game.
- The small group leader can quietly offer examples to each kid on their turn.

### 4. Make It Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

***Inclusive supplies:*** Scratch paper and pencils

**What You Do:**

- Invite kids to form groups of two or three.
- Explain that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything.
- Encourage the kids to ask each other:
  - Who can you be brave and help this week?
  - How can I pray for you?
- Give the kids a few moments to pray for each other.

- *NOTE: You can let them choose to pray silently or out loud.*
- Close your group in prayer.

**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.”

***Inclusive Pro Tips:***

- If kids prefer not to pray out loud, invite them to whisper or pray silently.
- Offer scratch paper and pencils to write or draw who they want to help before sharing.