

K-2 | September 14

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 (NIV)

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 remember that God is with them, they're never alone, and He will help them face whatever they're facing. Thank God for moving into each of His followers. Ask God's Spirit to give the kids courage when they need it!

1. Opening Activity

What You Need: Offering container

What You Do:

- Greet each kid with a big smile and by name as they arrive!
- Invite anyone who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Gather the kids in a circle.
- Explain that you'll be playing a few games that you might play in the car on a road trip!
- Explain how to play:
 - You will quietly pick a color and an item in your head and start describing it without sharing its color yet.
 - For example, you might say, "This fruit is pretty sour! It grows on a tree and is used to make a drink that many people love!" (*answer: yellow, lemon*)
 - Give the kids time to guess the item.
 - Once someone gets the item right, celebrate them and play another round with a new color and item.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

Item Suggestions:

- Red: roses, watermelon, a stop sign, a bird, a firetruck, a lobster, a heart
- Green: an apple, a grape, a lime, a plant, broccoli, an avocado, a tractor, a frog, a leaf, money
- Yellow: a banana, corn, a bumblebee, a sun, a lemon, cheese, a rubber duckie, a baby chick
- Orange: a pumpkin, a basketball, a goldfish, a peach, a tiger, a carrot, a fox
- Blue: a bird, the ocean, eyes, peacocks, a shark, jeans, blueberries
- Purple: an eggplant, an octopus, a plum, cabbage, an iris, grapes, grape jelly

What You Say:

"That was SUPER fun! You were like detectives figuring out all the items with the clues given to you! **[Transition]** In today's true story from the Bible, we're going to hear about some really brave spies. They weren't brave because they were the strongest, but because they knew God was with them. He is the strongest! Let's go!"

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.
- Instead of open-ended guessing, say something like, "Is it red, yellow, or blue?"

- Use real objects for kids to see the color and item.
- Be flexible with how kids can participate.

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

2. Verse Puzzle

What You Need: Bible marked at Psalm 56:3, "Verse Pieces" Activity Page, crayons/markers, scissors, Ziploc bag

What You Do:

- Read Psalm 56:3 out loud and have the kids repeat after you.
- Take a moment to explain any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

Move Together:

- Review the verse motions from Week 1.
 - The NIV is:
 - *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.)*
 - The NIV is:
 - *When I am 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.)*

Activity:

Have the children color, design, and decorate their verse activity page however they want (as long as it's appropriate). Once they are done, each child may cut out their puzzle and work to put it together. When done, they can put it in the Ziploc bag to take home. Be sure to label each child's Ziploc bag with their name.

What You Say:

"Awesome job, everyone! I loved seeing you working so hard on these puzzles. 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.**"

3. Eye Spies Recap

What You Need: “Story Review” Activity Page, index cards, markers, and a timer

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into teams of 3-4.
- Be sure to mix up readers with non-readers
- Give each team two index cards and a marker.
- 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:

- 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!”
- One by one, read the questions and choices out loud from the “Story Review” Activity Page.
- Set the timer for 15 seconds, and start it you’ve read all of the multiple-choice answers.
- 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! (If you need help with what to say, ask your ministry leader.)

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.

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Remind the kids that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything!
- 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."*
- Close in prayer, pausing to pray for each kid by name. If you have a large group, pray a general prayer.

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."

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

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!