



3rd-5th

May 7-8, 2016

DATE

BRAVE Journey: Celebrate Bravery

LESSON TITLE

Ephesians 6;10-18; Psalm 56:3

WHERE TO FIND IT

God equips us to be brave.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

During this final week of the BRAVE Journey, baptisms will take place in the main service. If you have a chance to talk to kids about it, tell them why they might see some adults walking around in wet clothes when they leave today. Ask kids if they know what baptism means...and why baptism is brave.

check-in/out

We're talking about God's armor. Encourage kids to share what they learned about God's armor today—and how it will help them be brave.

large group heads up

This week, we're doing a quick review of the brave men and women we've been hearing about during the BRAVE Journey. Then we're making it personal by "putting on" God's armor so that we can be brave!



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

A BRAVE ADVENTURE

- Choose a leader.
- He/she is going to say, "I'm going on an adventure, and I'm going to bring _____." But FIRST, think of a rule:
 - Kids can say anything they want but **there must be a RULE for it.**
 - Examples of rules are: items that begin with the letter B, round items, items that have two syllables, items that end in vowels, items that begin with the same letter as the player's first name, and anything else you can think of.
- Once there's a rule, say, "I'm going on an adventure, and I'm going to bring _____ (something that fits the rule)."
- Then go around the circle and kids will ask, "Can I bring a _____ to on the adventure?"
- The leader will answer "yes" or "no."
- The goal is to figure out the rule. (*You can have kids whisper it to you ahead of time, so you can help give hints if necessary.*)
- Do one sample round (with an adult leader). Your rule can be: items that begin with "S."
- Then play as many times as you can!

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What do you really need for an adventure? Why?
2. What do you need to be brave? Why?

Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) recognize the various pieces of God's armor as outlined in Ephesians 6:10-18 and (2) understand how to "put it on."

Why? This armor is an important tool that God gives us. Taking it seriously is powerful.

Tip: The Armor of God can be a tough concept. As kids create, be intentional about talking about each piece. Open up the **Bible** and read Ephesians 6:10-18 if it's helpful. Remind them of their verse again, too (Psalm 56:3).

small group

REVIEW AND RELATE

*(Show the **image of each person** when asking about him/her. Move fairly quickly through the first 5 questions. All of these people needed to believe in God's power or trust him above all else.)*

1. What did Joshua need to be brave?
2. What did Deborah need to be brave?
3. What did Elijah need to be brave?
4. What did Esther need to be brave?
5. What did Daniel need to be brave?
6. What do we need to be brave? (This can be God's armor or other things that kids came up with during Large Group.)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Give each kid **a piece of paper with a person outline.**
- Set out **glue, markers and scissors.**
- On it, kids should draw themselves, just as they are today (same hairstyle, same clothes, etc.). Give them markers, **yarn** (glued on for hair), and a **pair of eye stickers** (their choice).
- Once self-portraits are complete, hand out a **piece of aluminum foil** for each kid.
- Let them create the Armor of God using the aluminum foil. They can glue their armor onto the self-portrait they just completed. And remember, this is spiritual armor so there's no right or wrong way to create it!
- As they create, **ASK:** How can this armor help us to be brave?
- **Then pray with kids and ask God to make us brave this week.**

Extra time? Play the Brave Adventure game from Connect Time again!

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special notes

It might be tempting to give a lengthy recap of these great bravery stories! But it's important to get to the new idea for the day: God's Armor. Keep your recap succinct and show kids (in the Bible and online) where they can find more details if they're curious.

presenter tips

Not sure you remember all God's armor? Watch God's Story: Armor of God ahead of time for a refresher. You can find it at vimeo.com/75364291.

script

***Click to play intro video.**

WELCOME AND INTRO

Hi everybody, Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. We've been talking a LOT about bravery...how other people have been brave, how God wants us to be brave, and how God gives us the power to be brave even when we're afraid. Today is our last bravery day. But we're all going to prepare to go out and live a brave life.

So think about the game you just played for a minute. You all pretended that you were going on adventures. Most of the things you took were probably just silly, to fit the rule for your group. But if you were going on an real adventure—any adventure—what would you take? (Let kids share some ideas.) Those are great ideas!

Sometimes being brave means going on an adventure. But often, it means trusting God in the middle of everyday life. Think about the ways that you'd like to be brave. In your head, answer this question: What do you need in order to be brave? Once you've got it, give me a thumbs up. (Let kids think.)

BRAVE REVIEW

If you haven't thought of something yet, that's ok. We're going to take a minute and recap all the brave men and women of the Bible we've been talking about. If it's your first time here or you missed a few weeks of the BRAVE Journey, that's ok! I'll remind you of their stories.

(Click to show image of Joshua) First, we talked about Joshua. God asked Joshua to lead the Israelites across a flooded river. God said to just step into the Jordan River and start to walk across. Joshua didn't know what would happen, but he obeyed. Once Joshua got his feet wet, God split the river in two and made a dry path for Joshua and God's family to walk through.

What did Joshua need to be brave? (Let kids respond.) Yep, he needed to believe that God



script continued

had a plan, even though he didn't know what it was. Then he obeyed.

(Click to show image of Deborah) Next, we heard about Deborah. God told her to tell a soldier named Barak to lead God's family into battle against an army that was a LOT bigger and a LOT stronger. Barak was afraid, but Deborah told him that God would go before him in battle. Guess what? God's family won the fight.

What did Deborah need to be brave? (Let kids respond.) You got it! She needed to trust that God would keep his word. And that He had the power to lead the Israelites to victory.

(Click to show the image of Elijah) Then came Elijah. He spent his life hearing from God and telling people what God said. He's what we call a prophet. The problem was, the king and queen—Ahab and Jezebel—wanted nothing to do with God. Elijah spent years trying to show them that God was the one true God...and they never, ever believed him. Even when God did incredibly powerful things.

What did Elijah need to be brave? (Let kids respond.) That's right, he needed to keep on obeying, even when he faced the same problem over and over. That's called perseverance.

(Click to show an image of Esther) Esther was a woman in God's family who became queen of a place called Persia. While she was queen, something really scary happened. A guy named Haman convinced the king to pass a law that said that God's whole family had to die. Esther could have been killed for talking to the king about his laws, but she did it anyway. God saved his whole family through Esther.

What did Esther need to be brave? (Let kids respond.) Yes, she had to take a big risk and believe that God wanted her to be brave!

(Click to show an image of Daniel) And finally, last week, we heard about Daniel. He was a Jew who was taken from his home to serve another king. He chose to obey God, even if it meant disobeying the king. He ate vegetables and water instead of the king's meat, because the king's meat had been given to idols. Over and over again, God showed him what his king's dreams meant, and Daniel told the king, even when it was bad news. He even kept on praying to God when it got him thrown into a den of lions! And his friends were brave too. Remember, they refused to bow down to an idol even though their punishment was a fiery furnace.

What did Daniel (and his friends) need to be brave? (Let kids respond.) Great! They needed to obey God before anyone else. They had to care about what God thought more than what anyone else thought. And they had to obey, no matter what it cost them.

WHAT WE NEED TO BE BRAVE

So what do you guys think? What do WE need to be brave? (Let 4-6 kids respond.) Yep, all those things are great! Basically, we have to trust God and obey him. Sounds pretty simple, but it can actually be really hard!

The good news is, God knows that following him bravely can be hard. He knows there are a million things to distract and get us to turn away from him. Worse, our enemy, the devil, is



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constantly trying to get us to disobey God or make us doubt that we can trust God. So God gives us something really special to equip us to be brave. It's extremely powerful. It's a set of armor.

Let's watch a video about it. As you watch, in your head, imagine that you are "putting on" each piece.

Video: God's Story: The Armor of God.

Isn't that amazing? God prepares us to be brave by giving us armor: a belt of truth, the breastplate or body armor of God's righteousness, the shoes of the good news of Jesus' rescue, a shield of faith, and a helmet of salvation, which means believing we've been rescued. He even gives a sword of the spirit, which is his word! These are all things God has given to us through Jesus, and believing we have them gives us the power we need to be brave.

And did you guys hear the great news in the video? God is stronger than ANYTHING. No matter what we face or how scary it seems, we have nothing to fear. We can put on our armor and be part of the winning team.

RESPONSE

Are you guys ready to be brave? Let's prepare for this battle! Take a minute and tell God that you are ready to be brave! If anything seems too hard, ask him to help you. (Give kids a moment to pray. Then wrap up for the group): God, thank you for calling us to follow you bravely. And thank you for giving us all that we need to stand up to anything we face. We ask for greater bravery and for the ability to trust you more and more every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Remember, like Joshua, Deborah, Elijah, Esther and Daniel. We can trust God, no matter what. Let's say our verse one last time together:

Slide: Psalm 56:3 But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.

WORSHIP

Now, let's tell God why we trust him by worshiping him! We trust Him because we believe in him and in his power. Everybody, stand up so we can sing together!

Music Video: You Are

Music Video: Better than the Best

**Dismiss kids to small groups.*



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

Going on an Adventure Game – No supplies needed

small group supplies

Per kid: 1 set of eye stickers (OT: IN-57/6108), 1 person template, 1 piece aluminum foil

Per group: Bible; 1 set of five people images, reused (color, 8.5x11 cardstock): Joshua, Deborah, Elijah, Esther, Daniel; markers; glue; scissors; a variety of colored yarn (yellow, red, black, brown)

large group supplies

Per group: Bible

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. The following images, each on its own slide:
 - a. Joshua
 - b. Deborah
 - c. Elijah
 - d. Esther
 - e. Daniel
3. Video: God's Story: The Armor of God <https://vimeo.com/75364291>
4. Slide: Psalm 56:3 But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.
5. Music Video: You Are (with dance moves; <https://vimeo.com/112963091>)
6. Music Video: Better Than the Best (Music Videos>Better Than the Best with dance moves)

connect questions

Tell me about God's armor.
What do we need to be brave?

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