



WEEK ONE – OCTOBER 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *Basket Case* ▪ Exodus 2:1–10 (Supporting: Exodus 1)

Bottom Line: *You can do what you should, even when you don't know what will happen next.*

Memory Verse: *“Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.” Joshua 1:9b (NIRV)*

Life App: *Courage—Being brave enough to do what you should do, even when you're afraid*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: We kick off October in Exodus 2:1–10 where we meet Moses and his family. Moses was born in a time when Pharaoh commanded that all Hebrew baby boys be killed. Moses' mother and sister had courage to keep him alive. God rescued Moses through Pharaoh's daughter who ended up bringing him into the palace as her own son and raising him as an Egyptian.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: “Baby Care” Activity Pages, pencils

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Hand out a “Baby Care” Activity Page and pencil to each child.
- Instruct the kids to circle the items on the page that are needed to care for a baby and cross out the items that aren’t baby friendly.
- If time allows, encourage kids to draw or list other baby care items they can think of.
- Talk about baby care. Ask:
 - Is anyone a big brother or big sister?
 - Do you remember when your sibling was a tiny baby? If so, what do you remember about him/her?
 - What do you think is the hardest part about having a new baby? What do you think would be fun about being the parent of a little baby?

What You Say:

*“Taking care of a baby is a lot of work. Can you imagine taking care of a real baby while having to make sure he doesn’t cry or make too much noise? **[Transition]** In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about a mother and a big sister who had to take special care of a baby for a very important reason.”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *You can do what you should even when you don’t know what will happen next.*

Knowing that God is with us and will help us can give us the courage to keep going, even in the face of fear. We won’t always know what will happen, but we can trust God to work it all out.

SMALL GROUP

1. Act It Out

[Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: Baby Doll; Blanket

What You Do:

- Assign the kids to play the following roles from the Bible story: **Pharaoh**, **Soldiers** who search for the baby, **Jochebed** (Moses' mother), **Miriam** (Moses' sister), **princess**, and the **princess's servant**.
- Read the following script as the “actors” play their roles in the story.
 - Hand the baby doll to “Jochebed” to hold.
 - Lay the blanket on the floor as the “water” in the river.
 - There was a powerful **Pharaoh** who ruled over all of Egypt. He was mean and forced the Israelites living in his land to work as slaves. Soon, there were more and more Israelites. This worried **Pharaoh**, so he made a terrible rule. **Pharaoh** said, “Take all the newborn Israelite baby boys and throw them into the Nile River.” This was awful news for the Israelites. There was an Israelite mother named **Jochebed** who was determined to save her baby boy. **Jochebed** had to keep her baby quiet so that **Pharaoh's soldiers** wouldn't find him. **Miriam**, the baby's older sister, helped care for him too. But as the baby grew, **Jochebed** knew she couldn't keep him quiet in their home. So she came up with a plan. She covered a basket with thick tar so water couldn't get in and placed her baby gently inside. She had to be careful so **Pharaoh's soldiers** wouldn't catch her!
 - **Jochebed** carefully put the basket with her baby boy near the river while **Miriam** watched. Soon **Pharaoh's** daughter, the **princess**, came to the water with her **servant** beside her. The **princess** saw the basket in the water and asked her **servant** to go get it. When she looked inside, she found a crying baby! The **princess** knew this was an Israelite baby, but she wanted to help. **Miriam**, who was watching, walked up to the **princess** and asked, “Would you like for me to find an Israelite woman to help you take care of the baby?” The **princess** said yes, so **Miriam** went to **Jochebed**, the baby's own mother! They returned to the **princess**, who asked **Jochebed** to feed the baby, and she even offered to pay her to do this. b would be able to take care of her baby until he was old enough to return to the palace. The **princess** named him “Moses,” which means “pulled out of the water.”

What You Say:

*“Great acting, my friends! I love this story. Jochebed and Miriam had NO idea what would happen that day, but they had courage and trusted God. Because of their courage, Moses’ life was saved, and when we he grew up, God used him to save the lives of MILLIONS of others. We’ll hear more about that next week. I know sometimes it’s hard to do the right thing—to do the thing you know you should do—when you don’t know what will happen. Making the wise choice is always best. Let’s remember this week that like Jochebed and Miriam, **[Bottom Line]** you can do what you should, even when you don’t know what will happen next.”*

[Make It Personal] *(Tell the kids about a time when you had courage to make the wise choice even when you had no idea how things would turn out. What happened? How did you feel when you were making that choice? How did your faith and trust in God grow when you chose to obey even when you weren’t sure of the outcome?)*

2. Choose Your Ending

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Paper; Pencils

What You Do:

- Pass out a piece of paper to each child, and instruct kids to fold the paper in half and then in half again.
- After they’ve folded the paper, instruct kids to open it up and notice how the folds created four sections on the page.
- Read one of the scenarios listed below to the group.
- Then ask the kids to draw or write what they think will happen next in one of the sections on the page. (If kids have experienced a situation like that, encourage them to draw or write what actually happened in real life.)
- When finished, read the scenario aloud to the group, and call on two kids to share their endings (drawings) with the group.
 - After kids share about each scenario, ask them to quickly explain what they would do if they were being courageous in that situation.
- Scenarios:
 - A new kid just joined your class. She looks nervous and not really happy.
 - Your neighbor has a new dog, and you are afraid of dogs. But the neighbor is holding him on a leash and invites you over to meet the dog.
 - You notice a kid in your class teasing another kid on the playground.
 - In PE, you have to jump up onto a high padded wall and then jump back down. It looks scary.

What You Say:

*“I love your creativity, friends! And I love how each of the endings you drew were different. The truth is, we don’t know what will happen next. It could be any of these things you’ve drawn or none of them! But you can have courage and choose to do the right thing because a certain someone is always with you. Who is always with you? (God!) And the best part is that God DOES know exactly what will happen next. You can put your trust in God, and He will help you so that **[Bottom Line]** you can do what you should, even when you don’t know what will happen next.”*

3. Memory Verse Motions

[Memory Verse Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Pass out a Bible to every two or three kids.
- Use the navigation tips below to help kids look up Joshua 1:9b and read it together as a group.
 - **Finding verses with kindergartners:** *Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Joshua at the top of the page as you say “Joshua” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 1 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 1 for the little 9; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*
 - **Finding verses with 1st graders:** *Guide kids 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.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Joshua in the list under “Old Testament.” You can help by telling them that Joshua starts with the letters J–O. When the kids find Joshua, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Joshua. Help the kids find the page. When they find Joshua, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9b in chapter 1.*
- Teach the following motions to the children to help them memorize this month’s memory verse. (Adjust as needed, based on your preferred translation of the Bible.)
 - *Be strong and brave. (Flex muscles.)*
 - *Do not be afraid. (Hold up one finger and shake it back and forth.)*
 - *Do not lose hope. (Hold up two fingers and shake them back and forth.)*
 - *I am the Lord your God. (Point to heaven.)*
 - *I will be with you everywhere you go. (March in place.)*

Joshua 1:9b (NirV)

- Repeat several times together as a group.

What You Say:

*“This is such an AWESOME verse to memorize! We can be strong and brave (flex muscles). We don’t have to be afraid or lose hope, because God is with us everywhere we go. Is God with us on the playground? Yep. Is God with us when we’re lying in bed and all the lights are out? Is God with us when we need to tell the truth or stand up for someone else? Yes! Where else is God with us? (Let a few kids each name a different place, to help bring home the truth that God is everywhere!) God is with us, and He will give us the courage to make the wise choice. So this week, when you face a situation where you need some courage, say this verse to yourself as a reminder that God is with you so that **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should, even when you don’t know what will happen next.**”*

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Index cards or paper scraps; pencils

What You Do:

- Gather the kids to sit in a circle.
- Pass out a pencil and an index card or paper scrap to each child.
- Give the kids a minute or two to think of the week ahead.
 - Is there something happening that they’re worried or unsure about?
 - Is there a time of day or a place they go where they’re usually nervous or scared?
 - Give some examples, like in bed at night when it’s dark, during math or reading time when school work is hard, playing a sport, interacting with a kid who’s hard to get along with, etc.
 - Encourage the kids to draw a picture that represents their worry on the card.
- Let kids hold their cards as you pray for them. Ask that God would give them courage even when they aren’t sure how it will work out.

What You Say:

*“Take a look at your cards. Do you know what will happen in each of these situations this week? (Pause.) Nope, none of us do. But God does. And He is with you. You can trust that He is in control and that He will help you be brave. Remember, **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should, even when you don’t know what will happen next.** Let pray, friends.*

“Heavenly Father, I don’t know what each of my friends has drawn on their cards, but You do. You already know what will happen. So this week, if we start to feel afraid or unsure, help us to remember that You are with us. Help us to do what we should do, even when we don’t know what will happen. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the children to show off their drawings from the “Choose Your Own Ending” activity and talk about how God is with us so [Bottom Line] you can do what you should, even when you don’t know what will happen next. Also, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!