



Fearless

Bible Story: Fearless (Ananias Helps Paul) • Acts 9:10-31

Bottom Line: Knowing Jesus can help you face your fears.

Memory Verse: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.*
Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *Theme Slide*

Host enters.

Opener

HOST: “Hi, everyone! I’m *(your name)*. I’m so glad you’re here at *(your environment’s name)*. We’re having a ton of fun this summer as we take a closer look at FAITH!

CG: Faith Slide

“Faith is trusting in what you can’t see because of what you can see.

CG: Theme Slide

“We can’t see God with our eyes. But we can trust God when we FOCUS on the things He’s done—like the world He made, the amazing things we read about in His Big Story, and the way He works in our lives every day.

“I’ve got a fun way for us to start out today, and I know it’ll get everyone in this room moving. It’s time for a FOCUS Freeze Dance!

“What’s a FOCUS Freeze Dance, you ask? Well, it’s super simple! First, we need to set our teams. If your first name starts with A, B, C, D, E, or F, you’re the red team. If your first name starts with G, H, I, J, K, L, or M, you’re the yellow team. If your first name starts with N, O, P, Q, R, or S, you’re the green team. And if your first name starts with T, U, V, W, X, Y, or Z, you’re the blue team.

“Does everyone know their color? Raise your hand if you don’t know.

Quickly help the kids who don’t know their color before moving on.

“In just a minute, we’ll play some really fun music.

Hold up the four color signs.

“I’ll hold up one of these signs, and if it’s your color, you get to dance while everyone else freezes. Then I’ll hold up a different color, and if it’s your color, go ahead and dance. If it’s not, then freeze. You’ve got to FOCUS and make sure you’re dancing and freezing at the right time.

“Now, here’s the thing. When it’s your turn to dance, I want you to GO FOR IT, okay? Is everyone ready? *(Pause for response.)* Great! Here we go! FOCUS Freeze Dance in three . . . two . . . one . . . GO!

SFX: High-energy dance music

Hold up the color signs to get the kids (and Leaders) to dance. Start slow and easy so the kids can get the hang of it, then start changing the signs more quickly. Then, change it up by holding up multiple signs at a time, no signs at all, etc.

As the kids dance, comment on their moves and encourage them to go for it!

“That was awesome! And I bet it was a good workout, too. Nice job focusing on the signs. I know it got a little tricky there at the end. Let’s keep the fun going as we sing and worship God together.”

Worship

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! We’re picking up God’s Big Story today by looking at what happened with a man named Saul. We started talking about Saul’s amazing story last week. Let me catch you up. Everyone say hello . . .

Get the balloon with the Saul face, and set it down next to the Jerusalem sign. The balloon should be at head height.

“to Saul. You should know that Saul also went by the name Paul. That’s because his family was Jewish, but he was also born a Roman citizen. So, he was known by two different names.

“Saul was traveling to a city called Damascus.

Make the balloon “travel” across the stage from the Jerusalem sign to the Damascus sign.

“He wanted to stop people from believing in Jesus, because he didn’t believe that Jesus was the Son of God. So, he got permission from the high priest to arrest anyone in Damascus who followed Jesus. He planned to take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

“But on the way, Jesus Himself appeared to Saul in a flash of light!

Shine the flashlight on the balloon.

“The light was so bright that it blinded Saul.

Tie the blindfold (streamer) on the balloon.

“Saul heard Jesus’ voice telling him to go into Damascus, and there he would be told what to do next. The men traveling with Saul led him into town, where he stayed at the home of a man named Judas on Straight Street.”

Move the balloon to the Damascus sign.

GOD CALLS ANANIAS

STORYTELLER: “There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias.

Get the Ananias balloon and set it on stage, near the Damascus sign, somewhat close to Saul. Again, the balloon should be at head height.

“God called out to Ananias in a vision. He said:

Open the Bible to Acts 9:11-12 (NIRV)

“Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street. Ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying. In a vision Saul has seen a man come and place his hands on him. That man’s name is Ananias. In the vision, Ananias placed his hands on Saul so he could see again.”

“The problem was that Ananias (*point to the Ananias balloon*) had heard about how terrible Saul was (*point to the Saul balloon*). Ananias told God how he had heard reports about Saul. He’d heard how Saul had come to arrest believers in Damascus.

“But listen to what God said to Ananias about Saul. He said:

Open the Bible to Acts 9:15 (NIRV)

“Go! I have chosen this man to work for me. He will announce my name to the Gentiles and to their kings. He will also announce my name to the people of Israel.”

“In other words, even though Saul had made it his mission before to stop people from following Jesus, he had completely changed! Now, God had big plans for him to share the good news about Jesus.

“As you can imagine, Ananias must have been afraid. But he did what God said. He went to the house and found Saul.

Put the Saul and Ananias balloons close together.

“Saul hadn’t eaten or drunk anything for three days. Ananias placed his hands on Saul and told him that God had sent him there to help him. Something like scales dropped from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again!

Remove the blindfold from the Saul balloon.

“He got up and was baptized.”

THE GREAT ESCAPE

STORYTELLER: “Now, Saul wanted to tell everyone about Jesus! Within days, he started teaching and preaching in the Jewish synagogues. He taught that Jesus is the Son of God. Everyone who heard him was amazed.

“Well, there were some people who weren’t really happy about Saul’s change of heart. The religious leaders who lived in Damascus and even the governor of the city were angry. They thought Saul was causing trouble. They made plans to capture and kill him.

“But Saul’s friends helped him escape at night. They lowered him in a basket through an opening in the city wall.

Get the laundry basket and turn it upside down. Put it over the Saul balloon, and use it to lower the balloon down to the ground.

ESCAPE . . . AGAIN!

STORYTELLER: “Saul was free!

Take the basket off so the balloon rises up again.

“He headed back to Jerusalem.

Make the Saul balloon “travel” again, across the stage toward the Jerusalem sign.

“When Saul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the other followers of Jesus. But they were afraid of him. I mean, the last time they’d seen him, he had been out to get them!

“One man, Barnabas, had already heard Saul’s story.

Get the Barnabas balloon and set it next to the Saul balloon.

“He took Saul to visit Peter, James, and the other leaders of the early church, and he told them everything that had happened to Saul in Damascus. He told them how Saul had met Jesus on the road, and he told them about Saul’s change of heart. He explained that Saul had been sharing the good news of Jesus with people in Damascus ever since. He helped the Jesus-followers to see that Saul was one of them, and they welcomed Saul into the family.

“Saul stayed with the followers of Jesus in Jerusalem, and he preached there just like he did in Damascus. Once again, a group of religious leaders became upset with him. But once again, the believers helped Saul escape. This time, he traveled back to his hometown of Tarsus to wait for God’s next directions.”

Take the Saul balloon out of sight.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “There were lots of people who tried to stop God’s plan. But the church and the number of followers of Jesus continued to grow, through the power of God’s Spirit.

“Think of all of the brave people who had to face their fears to help Saul.

Walk over to the Ananias balloon.

“There was Ananias, who followed God’s instructions to help Saul get his sight back. He had every reason to be afraid of Saul based on what he had heard about him. But he had the courage to help!

“There were the other believers who helped Saul escape Damascus.

Walk over to the Barnabas balloon.

“There was Barnabas, who spoke up for Saul and helped the church leaders in Jerusalem see that he was trustworthy.

Get the Saul balloon and bring it out on stage again.

“And there was Saul himself. Saul was brave enough to speak out and spread the word about Jesus, even though before, he had tried to stop the church from growing. Now, Saul had a strong faith in Jesus that made him willing to face anyone who tried to stand in his way.

“Saul, Ananias, and Barnabas showed us something really important about faith.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Knowing Jesus can help you face your fears.

“Let’s ask God to help us be strong and brave in what we believe.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for giving Saul another chance to follow You. His life shows us such a great example of what it looks like to have faith in You completely. Thank You for helping him and the other believers be brave enough to tell people about You. Please give us the kind of faith that will help us face our fears, too. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “I can understand why the believers weren’t so sure they could trust Saul. I mean, it would have been tough to know for sure if he had really changed after everything they’d seen and heard about him. If I’m honest, I probably would have been scared to give Saul a chance.

CG: Today’s Story Image

Optional: Place Today’s Story Image on your timeline.

“I mean, take Ananias. He must have been scared to go to Saul and help him. But he did, because he trusted what God told him.

“Ananias, Barnabas, and the other believers had the courage to face their fears. They helped Saul. They stood up for him and helped others see that he had changed.

CG: Timeline

“All the way through God’s Story, we can find believers who had great faith just like Saul, Ananias, and Barnabas did. These people chose to believe in what they couldn’t see because of what they could see.

“When we look at people in the Bible who followed Jesus, we can see great examples of what happens when we put our faith in Him. The more we get to know Jesus, the more we find the courage to do things that might seem scary.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Knowing Jesus can help you face your fears.

“When you’re afraid, remember: God is with you. **[Basic Truth] You can trust Him no matter what!** Even though you can’t see Him, you can trust Him. He can give you the strength to do something you’re afraid to do—like maybe telling the truth, or being kind to someone who isn’t always kind to you.

“And remember, when we believe in Jesus, we have the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit can help us face our fears and do what we know God wants us to do.

“You can head to Small Group now. Talk it over with your friends, and think about how you can face your fears—with faith!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

CG: Theme Slide