



PRETEEN

NOVEMBER 2022

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN COURAGE AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

COURAGE IS A RESPONSE TO THE CHARACTER OF GOD.

As we continue our journey through God's Big Story, we take a closer look at the lives of significant people in the Jewish Scriptures: Joshua and Caleb, David, Daniel, and Esther. Each of them trusted God and found courage to face difficult circumstances. They also represent major time periods in Israel's history—from entering the land of Canaan, the United Kingdom, and Exile.

Like these people we read about in the Old Testament, God may ask us to take a risk or do something we might not feel prepared to do. But God will also give us the courage we need to face that challenge. We can also look to Jesus. He faced the biggest challenge of all: death on the cross. Still, He chose to be brave and follow God's plan.

WEEK 1

Key Question: **What are people afraid of?** We start with this high-level question because, for kids, it's often easier to talk about your own fears when you think about what others find scary. We hope to start a good discussion about fears in others to help kids think about fears of their own. God can meet us in our fears and help us find the courage to face them.

For week one, we pick up God's Big Story in **Numbers 13-14** with two guys named Joshua and Caleb. After traveling through the desert away from Egypt, they demonstrated courage when they were sent out as spies in the Promised Land with 10 of their fellow Israelites. The land of Canaan was awesome, but it also wouldn't be too easy to enter. When everyone else was scared to enter this land that God had promised the Israelites, Joshua and Caleb found the courage to speak up and remind the people that God would provide a way for them to take the land. They were brave even when others weren't, and God rewarded them for it.

Bottom Line: **You can do what you should even when**

others are afraid. Courage can be contagious. When we see others being brave, that has the potential to inspire us to be brave too. We hope to help kids realize that they can lead by example. When they trust God and have courage, they can point others to God and empower them to show courage too.

WEEK 2

Key Question: **What seems impossible to you?** When you're young, lots of things seem impossible—from eating a plate-full of vegetables to keeping your room clean. But through this question, we hope kids will think about situations at school, home, or in extracurricular activities that might be giving them some anxiety and fear. We pray they'll realize how God can meet us in our fear and give us courage to face whatever comes our way.

In week 2, we head to passages in **1 Samuel 16 and 17**, where we meet David. His story starts when God sent Samuel to Jesse's house to find a new king for Israel. Samuel was looking for someone who looked like a king, but God chose David because of his heart. David was a man who would lead the way God wanted. Soon after David was anointed as the next king, he went to visit the front line of a major battle. When the Philistine giant Goliath was shaming God's people with his threats and no one would stand up to him, David showed up and knew something had to be done. David trusted God for the courage to do something about it . . . and God used David to do the impossible and defeat Goliath.

Bottom Line: **You can do what you should even when things seem impossible.** Because kids have limited life experience, a lot of what they face seems impossible. They may not know how to talk to a friend who hurt their feelings. They might not understand how they can overcome a fear of the dark, or even asking for help. We pray that through this lesson about David, kids will



FOR LEADERS ONLY

see how they can trust God for the courage to face challenges in life.

WEEK 3

Key Question: **What is the bravest thing you've ever done?** It isn't always easy for us to find the courage to do what we should. However, it can be a bit easier when we remember the times we've shown courage in the past. Whether it's standing up for what's right or doing something we've never tried before, we hope that kids can talk about their moments of bravery and inspire others in their group to show bravery too. We pray they remember that God is with them through all of it.

In week three, we head to **Daniel 6** and a time period when God's people were in captivity. Even in a foreign land that didn't worship God, Daniel was known for faithfully praying to God. And when the leaders tried to trap him and have him killed, Daniel had courage and continued to honor God in spite of what could happen to him. Unfortunately, Daniel was caught and thrown into the lions' den . . . but God was with Daniel and protected him by shutting the lions' mouths.

Bottom Line: **You can do what you should because God is with you.** Sometimes a kid might feel like they're the only one of their friends who's choosing to do what's right. Moments like these can take a huge amount of courage. As kids learn how Daniel trusted God and found courage to do the right thing, they'll remember that God is always with them too. God can give them the strength and courage they need to keep making the wise choice.

WEEK 4

Key Question: **When have you done something you were afraid to do?** Acts of courage can come in all shapes and sizes: jumping off the high dive, asking for help, trying a new food. We've all faced moments where we've had to choose to do something that made us scared. We didn't know how it would turn out, yet we knew we had to try. Remembering those moments can help kids find the courage they need to face their next challenge.

In week four, we discover the story of Esther in the **Book of Esther**. Esther had no idea how God would use her when she was chosen to become Queen of Persia. But, her cousin Mordecai reminded her that God put her

in that role to rescue the Jewish people from Haman's plot. Esther knew what could happen if the king didn't approve of her asking for his help . . . but she knew how much more was at stake for God's people if she didn't try. She found the courage to go to the king and ultimately saved her people.

Bottom Line: **You can do what you should even when you don't know what will happen.** We will all face moments in life when we need to take a risk. Those situations can feel terrifying. We might wish that we could crawl back into bed and hide . . . but more than likely, that won't be an option. Thankfully, we know that God is with us like God was with Esther. We might not know what will happen, but God does. We can trust God no matter what—to give us the courage we need to face anything in life.



PRETEEN

NOVEMBER 2022

FOR LEADERS ONLY
