

Alley Rundown—November 27th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Stand Up (Esther) • *The Book of Esther*

Today's Key Question: When have you done something you were afraid to do?

Today's Bottom Line: You can do what you should even when you don't know what will happen.

Monthly 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)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

"Hey, everyone! Hope you are feeling great today! As we get started, let me ask you something. What's your favorite adventure movie? (*Take responses*)

Replace these examples with some of your own. Be sure to ask them their favorites beforehand, so you can grab some images off the Internet. Or you can use these as a hypothetical.

"Those are awesome! Yeah, here are some of mine. Let me warn you, some of them are old-school.

Optional SLIDE: Indiana Jones Screengrab

"Always an adventure with Indi as he races to discover some ancient artifact before it gets into the wrong hands. Or how about this one?

Optional SLIDE: Uncharted Screengrab

"*Uncharted*. I'm not even a video game person, but this movie was so much fun! That scene outside the back of that cargo plane was insane!

Optional SLIDE: The Goonies Screengrab

"You might not have ever heard of *The Goonies*, but when I was growing up, everyone wanted a group of friends like in *The Goonies*. They discovered a pirate's treasure map in their attic that led them on an incredible journey to find the treasure.

"You might be wondering why we're talking about adventure movies during the 'Bible story time,' but go with me for a second. All of these movies have something in common: risk and courage.

"At some point near the start of these stories, someone decides to embark on an adventure in spite of the dangers and the possibility of—you know—serious injury and/or death. For them, getting the courage to take the risk is worth the reward.

"But movie heroes aren't the only ones who have massive amounts of courage to take giant risks. Think about it: have you ever known or seen anyone who took a giant risk? Not just like risking that double backflip on a trampoline—I'm talking a major risk! Anyone? (*take a few responses*) Yeah, for sure, those are some risky moments!

"Truth be told, on some level each one of us will have to take a risk at some point in our lives. It may not be a huge, jump-out-of-an-airplane sort of risk, but it could be deciding to ask for help when we're afraid people might think less of us. No matter what the risk, we might wonder if we can go through with it. We might doubt our abilities, overthink the consequences, or just decide to do nothing and hope for the best. But *is* that the best?

"When it comes to taking risks that deep down we know we need to make, how can we find the strength to have courage and follow through on what needs to be done?

“That is a really good question. And like we say a lot around here, when we have a good question, we need a good answer. And one of the best places for us to find answers for questions like these is the Bible. Remember, the Bible was written by and about all sorts of people who experienced God. And God inspired them to write their stories down so people like us can learn from them, even today!”

“Now, before we get into the story for today, let’s bring everyone up to speed because since August we’ve covered a LOT of ground in God’s Big Story so far. And I want to make sure everyone is on the same page.

“We’ve seen how God created the world and everything in it—including people. We’ve seen how God had a plan to bless the whole world through Abraham’s family, the Israelites. Then we spent some time discovering how God rescued the Israelites from Egypt and then how God put judges and kings in place to lead the people. All-in-all, God had been showing some epic love since the very beginning!

“Unfortunately, even though God had been so loving, God’s people turned AWAY from God—over and over again. In fact, we can read in the Bible about how things got so bad that God allowed the Israelites to be captured by other nations. But even while the people were held in captivity in a faraway land, there were some men and women who still loved and honored God with courage. One was the man we talked about last week: Daniel. Another was a young woman named Esther, and she is the hero of today’s story. Let’s take a look with the help of this week’s Episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 16:00)

“Incredible story, right! I mean, there’s enough adventure and intrigue in Esther’s story to make a blockbuster adventure movie! What’s really amazing, though, is that even today, a few thousand years later, we can still learn from Esther about what it means to trust God, have courage, and do something really important.

“Of course, we may not be a queen like Esther, where our decisions impact an entire nation. But you and I still make choices every day whether or not we’ll have the courage to do what’s right, no matter what it might cost us.

“What’s awesome is that we don’t have to find that kind of courage on our own. When you believe that Jesus is God’s Son and choose to follow Him, you have God’s Holy Spirit living in you. God’s Spirit can help you be brave and face whatever comes your way with massive amounts of courage.

“So whenever you face tough moments when there’s a big risk involved, especially when you don’t know what will happen next, the first thing you should do is stop and ask God to help you. Ask God to give you the courage to do what you need to do. You can trust God no matter what!”

“One thing that can be helpful when it comes to finding the courage to take a risk is to think about other times when you’ve been in a similar situation. So on your way to Small Group, think about this.

SLIDE: Key Question

“**[Key Question] When have you done something you were afraid to do?** Consider the times in your life when you might have been scared to take a risk or do the right thing. Think about how it turned out and even how God helped you through it. And honestly, it’s okay if you haven’t. We’re all learning here and discovering how we can trust God for the courage to do what we need to do. You’ll be able to talk with your Small Group about all of this and more. Before we head out, let’s pray and ask God to give us the courage we need for whatever we face this week. Let’s pray!”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING TIME:

All this month, we have been bringing our money to support Vida Nueva Ministries in Piedras Negras, Mexico. Your offering helps people just like you to have the resources they need to experience a new life with Jesus! Here is a picture of our friends Eli and Mandy Garcia and their family...

SLIDE: Eli and Mandy

They are our friends and Parkview Global heroes that tell people about Jesus down in Mexico. So, if you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now while this video plays!

CG: *Vida Nueva Ministries Video (Runtime: 2:00)*