

City SG—November 27th, 2022

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

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)

1. What's the Word?

What You Need: "Memory Verse Words" Activity Page (1 set per Group), floor tape, and Bible

What You Do:

- Select a volunteer to open the Bible to Joshua 1:9b and "read" it together for review.
- Lay out the Activity Pages a foot apart on floor in the following order: STRONG, BRAVE, AFRAID, HOPE, LORD, GOD, EVERYWHERE, GO.
- Tape each word to the floor to secure.
- Let the kids take turns hopping along the words of the verse, one at a time, as you repeat it together.
 - **NOTE: Have the kids hop on the sides of the verse words, not on top of them. This will keep the pages from tearing!**
- Once everyone has had a turn to jump along the path, remove two words and repeat again.
- Continue allowing the kids to hop along the path, one at a time, to repeat the verse until you're down to two words.
- Call on a volunteer to say the verse with just two words remaining.

What You Say:

"Great job, friends! I've loved learning this verse with you. Wherever you go, whatever you do, no matter where the day takes you, GOD is right there to help you, no matter what. You can have courage, even when you don't know how things will turn out. Remember, **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should even when you don't know what will happen.**"

2. Connect the Dots

What You Need: "Connect the Dots" Activity Pages (1 per kid) and markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Connect the Dots" Activity Page and set out the markers.
- Ask someone to volunteer to read the verse from the page.
- Encourage kids to guess what the picture is before they start connecting the dots.
- Instruct the kids to complete the "Connect the Dots" Activity Page.
- Invite the kids to color the page once they finish the activity.

What You Say:

"All right, who guessed correctly? Because I definitely didn't see that picture coming! There's a reason why the writer of this month's verse commands us to be strong and brave. It encourages us to not lose hope when it's scary and we don't know what's going to happen in our world.

"I'm so thankful we're not just left to figure things out on our own. We can have courage because God is with us wherever we go. God is with us in the unknown, and the Holy Spirit helps give us courage. Just like you didn't know what the picture would end up looking like today, **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should even when you don't know what will happen.**"

3. Courage Challenge

What You Need: Foam die (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Set out the game die.
- One at a time, invite each kid to roll the game die to see what challenge below they land on.
- As kids roll a number, read off the courage challenge below.
- Encourage the entire group to participate in the courage challenge together.

Courage challenge die number guide:

1. Stand on one foot for one whole minute without falling over.
2. Do your best dance move.
3. Sing a line from your favorite song in an opera voice.
4. Jump as high as you can.
5. Pat your head and rub your belly at the same time.
6. Tell the group your favorite food in a robot voice.

What You Say:

“Wow! I had a lot of nerves inside of me wondering what courage challenge was coming next when you rolled the game die. I mean, it could have given us *any* challenge. Thankfully, these were all pretty easy and fun! **[Transition] Just like Esther, you can take a big risk even though you didn’t know what is going to happen next. God will be with you if you have the courage to do the right thing!”**

4. Rock, Paper, STAND

What You Need: “Rock, Paper, Stand” Activity Pages (1 per kid)

What You Do:

- Give every kid a “Rock, Paper, Stand” Activity Page.
- Read through the review points on the “Rock, Paper, Stand” Activity Page.
- Practice doing the hand motions and actions for the Rock, Paper, Stand symbols.
- After reviewing, have your own epic Rock, Paper, Stand tournament!
- Instruct kids to partner up.
- The rules of the game are like “Rock, Paper, Scissors.”
 - Rock beats stand.
 - Paper beats rock.
 - **Stand beats paper.**
- Direct the winners to compete against the other winners from each pair until there are only two competitors left.
- When kids are out, ask them to sit down on the sidelines and cheer for the kids who are left.
- Last team member standing is the winner!

What You Say:

“You all ROCKED that! No pun intended. Although our tournament was full of fun, Esther was in a contest leading to a chance to be the queen! I’m sure she was nervous being in front of people and knowing all of the big responsibility that that job held.

“As we learned in our story today, when Esther did become queen, she was faced with a massively difficult decision. She could do what was right, even though the risk was huge, or choose the easier path, but she wouldn’t be able to save her people. As we know, Queen Esther made the right choice, even though it was incredibly scary. She stood up to King Xerxes and told him of Haman’s evil plan.

“Although you probably won’t have to face off with any kings in the next week, I do know that you may have to face some pretty epic challenges in your own world. Just like Esther chose to make the right choice, no matter what was waiting on the other side, **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should even when you don’t know what will happen.** You never know what could be on the other side of your ‘yes’ to listening to God and doing the right thing.”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

- Gather the kids to sit in the circle.
- Give the kids a few minutes to think about something coming up this week—something they’re excited about, worried about, or anything at all.
- Explain that on the count of three, you want them to say it out loud, everyone at once.
- Close in prayer, asking God to help us trust so that **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should even when you don’t know what will happen.**

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for being a great big God, big enough to hear everything we’ve all just said out loud at the same time. You know how each of these things will work out. Will you help us trust You this week and have the courage we need to do what we should, even when we don’t know how things will work out? Thanks for loving us God and for sending Jesus. It’s in His name we pray, amen.”