

City SG—November 6th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: You Make Me Brave (Joshua and Caleb) • *Numbers 13–14*

Today's Bottom Line: You can do what you should even when others are afraid.

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. Face the Challenge

Non-Reader Option highlighted below

What You Need: “Face the Challenge” cards (1 per Kid), Bibles, and pens

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Joshua 1:9 using the Bible navigation tips below.

Finding verses with 1st through 3rd 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.” 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 9 in chapter 1.

- Read Joshua 1:9 together several times.
- Give each kid a “Face the Challenge” card and a pen.
- Encourage the kids to write down/**draw** one fear they can face this week.
- If they're stumped, prompt them with examples such as:
 - tell the truth even when it's hard or you might get in trouble
 - stand up for someone else
 - study even when you want to give up
 - tell someone you trust how you feel when you're having a hard time
- Encourage kids to put their card somewhere they can see it throughout the week to remind them to face their fear.

What You Say:

“Our memory verse reminds us that God never asks us to stand alone when we're facing our fears. We can be strong and brave BECAUSE God is with us. God will be with us wherever we go and in whatever we face. God's presence can help us have courage.

“It takes a lot of courage to even name or share a fear we have. This week, as you challenge yourself to face your fear, remember that God is already proud of you for taking the first step. And God will be with you in the next steps towards tackling this fear. Remember that **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should even when others are afraid.**”

2. Fear Scale

What You Need: Floor tape

What You Do:

- Tape an eight-foot line on the floor.
- Use the tape to create a scale from one to ten.
 - Tape a “1” at one end, a “5” in the center, and a “10” at the opposite end.
- Point out the numbers to the kids.
- Read a series of things that people might be afraid of, using the list below.
- For each example, let the kids rate where they would fall on the “fear” scale by moving to that physical spot on the scale, with “1” as the lowest amount of fear to “10” being a LOT of fear.
- Keep it light. We’ve included some real fears and some silly ones, too!
- When you’re almost to the end of the list, stop and ask the kids to jump on the scale to rate where they think a younger sibling or cousin would rate that example on the fear scale.
- Examples:
 - Spiders
 - A big test
 - Spaghetti
 - Loud sirens
 - Snakes
 - Snow
 - Dogs
 - Heights
 - Bunnies
 - Thunder and lightning
 - Watermelon
 - Clowns
 - The dark
 - Birthday candles
 - Dirt
 - Balloons
 - Flowers

What You Say:

“I’m not afraid of spaghetti, but a sudden loud siren can make my heart race! What do you do when YOU aren’t afraid but others are? **[Transition] We’ll find out how two people handled that situation in our Bible story today.**”

3. Memory Verse in Motion

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Pass out the Bibles, one for every two or three kids. Using the navigation tips below, help the kids look up Joshua 1:9b.

Finding verses with 1st through 3rd 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 9 in chapter 1.

- Read the verse aloud together, two or three times.
- Gather the kids to stand and teach them the following motions to help them learn the verse.
- Repeat the verse with the motions as long as time and interest allow.
 - Be strong and brave (*muscle arms*)
 - Do not be afraid (*shake right pointer finger back and forth*)
 - Do not lose hope (*shake left pointer finger back and forth*)
 - I am the Lord (*point to the sky*)
 - Your God (*point to chest*)
 - I will be with you (*motion outward with both arms*)
 - Everywhere you go. (*march around*)
 - Joshua 1:9b

What You Say:

“You can be STRONG and BRAVE. Let me see those muscles! You don’t have to be afraid (*wave your right pointer finger*) or lose hope (*wave your left pointer finger*). Why? Because God will be with you (*march*) everywhere you go! What an amazing promise. God was with Joshua and Caleb as they spied on the land, and He gave them courage when everyone around them was so afraid. We can be brave enough to do what we should because God is on our side. **[Bottom Line] You can do what you should even when others are afraid.**”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Cards from “Face the Challenge” Activity

What You Do:

- Invite volunteers to share what’s written on their cards.
- Close your group time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help kids stand up and face their fears this week.

What You Say:

“God, thank You for this verse to remind us that we’re not alone as we face our fears. When we’re tempted to lose hope and give up, remind us that You have called us to be brave. You’ve given us Your Holy Spirit to help us. No matter what challenging, scary, or impossible thing may happen this week, please help us stand in the face of our fears. When we’re afraid, help us hear Your voice louder as You tell us, **[Bottom Line] ‘You can do what you should even when others are afraid.’** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”