



COURAGE | WEEK 2 | SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 | ELEMENTARY

## JOSHUA AND THE SPIES

**Key Application:** Courage - When God helps you to be brave enough to do hard things.

**Bible Story:** Joshua and the Spies • *Numbers 13-14*

**Key Question:** When is it hard to trust God?

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

**Memory Verse:** When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3 (NirV)

### LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*God has given each of us a key role to play in His story—but that doesn't mean the journey will be easy. As we continue to follow the journey of God's people, we discover that Moses wasn't ready for his leading role; that Joshua and Caleb had to go against the flow; that Rahab put everything on the line for the sake of a God worshiped by her enemies; and that Ruth set aside the safety of home to forge into the unknown. God's people were on the move, but every new step was an act of courage.*

*While the kids in your ministry aren't facing down an Egyptian ruler or setting off for new lands, they still need courage to do difficult things every single day. From speaking up in class to starting a conversation with a new kid to facing a doctor visit, kids need the help of God's Holy Spirit. You can remind them that feeling scared doesn't mean they can't be brave. In fact, courage means trusting God to help you be brave.*

*When kids choose to rely on God's help to do something hard, even when they're afraid, others can see God at work—and on the move.*

#### **Pre-Service Check List**

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

#### **Morning Flow**

Doors  
Open  
9:15/11:00

Large Group  
Starts  
9:35/11:20

Small Group  
Starts  
10:05/11:50

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

**LGL:** “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

**(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)** “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

### LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

#### CROSS THE RIVER CHALLENGE

**(Floor Tape or cones, scrap paper – [amount depends on the environment, but it should be the number of kids on a team plus 1])**

“We are continuing our journey through the Bible this year. Last month was all about faith, and this month is all about courage.

**(SLIDE: KEY APPLICATION)** **Courage - When God helps you to be brave enough to do hard things.**

“Following God’s way is ALWAYS right, but it’s not always easy. Ever since the beginning and sin broke the world, people naturally want to turn away from God. Doing the right thing and going God’s way when other people around may not be takes courage!

Courage DOESN’T mean that you’ll never be afraid. Godly courage means that you trust that God is always with you and works all things together for the good of those who love Him. The more you trust Him and have courage, the quicker you will be to face hard things again, because you know that God was with you in the past.

“Let’s check out our memory verse for the month.

**(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE)** **When I’m afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3 (Nlrv)**

*Take a minute to explain that ‘Psalm’ is a book in the Old Testament, and that the first number means ‘chapter’ and the second one means ‘verse’. ‘Nlrv’ is what translation the Bible is in. The Bible wasn’t originally written in English! There are different translations.*

“You’ll have more time to practice this month’s verse, but for now let’s play a game!”

## (SLIDES: CROSS THE RIVER CHALLENGE with MUSIC)

### HOW TO PLAY

- Place either floor tape or cones (or whatever markers you want) to indicate start and finish lines.
- Choose which makes the most sense for your environment:
  - Split the room into boys/girls or into small groups
  - Choose 10-14 kids to be split into 2 teams.
- Tell kids that they will be working together to 'cross the river'.
- Have the teams stand in lines behind the 'start' line. Give each team member a piece of scrap paper ('stepping stones'), but give the first team member an extra one.
- **HAVE SGLs IN THE ROOM DEMONSTRATE HOW TO MOVE ACROSS THE RIVER.**  
Teams will have to work together to safely cross the river using their 'stepping stones'.
  - The trick is that the kids will have to hop on one stone at a time, and the kid in the back will have to reach back and grab the now empty stone and pass it forward. The person in front can't put it too far forward or else the person in the back can't reach it!
- First team to have every member of their team safely cross the finish line wins!

"That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let's worship God!"

## WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: MY FEET ARE ON THE ROCK, GOD IS ON THE MOVE)

## BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No Supplies)

"Quick question—and just think about this in your head for a sec. If our whole group here had to decide right now on ONE topping for a giant pizza to share, what do you think would win?"

"Pepperoni or pineapple? *(Pause briefly for mental consideration.)*

"Okay, let's do a quick vote just for fun.

"All in favor of 'pepperoni,' raise your hand!

"Okay, hands down. All in favor of 'pineapple'?"

"Looks like (state the winner) wins!"

"Now, for something fun like pizza toppings, going with the majority is usually no big deal. But what about bigger things? Can you think of a time when maybe going along with the crowd, doing what most people are doing or saying, might not be the best or wisest choice?"

*Pause for thought, maybe take one or two brief answers if time allows.*

"It can be tough to stand apart from the crowd—especially if the crowd seems really sure about something, or maybe really afraid of something. It takes courage to trust what you know is right,

or to trust God, when everyone else is panicking. So my question to you is: ‘When is it hard to trust God?’

“Think about that. When is it hard to trust God? Maybe especially when the people around you are full of fear or doubt? Our story today is about a time exactly like that. Let’s check it out.

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5 MIN)**

“Think about your own life. Maybe it’s trying out for something new, and your friends say, ‘Don’t bother, it’s too hard, you’ll never make it.’ Maybe it’s seeing someone treated unfairly and everyone else just walks by, afraid to get involved. Maybe it’s just pressure to go along with something you know isn’t right because ‘everyone else is doing it.’”

“In those moments, it can be really hard to trust God, right? It feels easier, maybe safer, to just go with the flow, to let the fear dictate your choices. But God invites us to choose a different way. He invites us to focus on Him—His promises, His presence, His power. The strongest, God Himself, always goes with you.

“Another way to say it is how our Basic Truth for this week says it...

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.**

“When we think about Joshua and Caleb and the other spies, we can remember that God is always, always more powerful than anything we face. And if we think and think and think about God’s strength and His power, our view of Him will grow bigger and bigger until the thing we’re afraid of will get smaller and smaller in our minds! What we focus on matters. Other people might be scared, and that’s okay. We can be brave because we know God is with us and He is more powerful than anything! God is the strongest!

“We can ask the Holy Spirit inside of us for help when we need a reminder that we’re not alone, or if we need a reminder that the God who is with us is bigger and stronger than anything we’ll face.

“As we head to Small Groups, we want you to consider this question:

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) ‘When is it hard to trust God?’**

*Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don’t try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.*

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1....

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let’s pray.

“God, thank You for showing us through Joshua and Caleb that courage comes from trusting that

You are with us and that You are stronger than everything—not from listening to the fears of others. Help us to see situations through the eyes of faith, focusing on Your goodness and Your presence with us—because Your presence with us is what’s really true. Help us to trust You no matter what the powerful things in our life look like. Help us to remember that You are the most powerful of anything and You go with us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

## **DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**





## SMALL GROUP

**Key Application:** Courage - When God helps you to be brave enough to do hard things.

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### TALK ABOUT IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.*

#### Key Question: When is it hard to trust God?

*(Answers will vary; It's often hard to trust God when life doesn't look like it's going "according to plan"—especially our plan. When prayers feel unanswered, when pain shows up without explanation, or when we feel like we're walking through the dark without a flashlight... trust gets tested. Our human hearts want to see the way, but God calls us to believe He is the way. But here's the good news: God's faithfulness isn't based on our feelings—it's based on His character. Even when we don't understand what He's doing, we can still trust who He is. Like **Proverbs 3:5** says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.")*

### LOOK IT UP (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.*

#### Look Up: Proverbs 3:5

**Say:** The **Book of Proverbs** is full of short and smart sayings to help us make good choices. Most of them were written by King Solomon, who asked God for wisdom—and God gave him a LOT! Proverbs teaches that real wisdom starts with loving and trusting God. It gives advice for things like being kind, telling the truth, working hard, and listening to your parents. It's like God's little instruction manual for life!

### PRACTICE IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*(Floor tape, 3-5th "My Journey" activity page - 1 per kid)*

#### What You Do:

- Use floor tape to mark a line down the center for your small group area.
- On one side of the line, tape a big checkmark. (This means, "Yes, that's courage!")
- On the other side, tape a big "X." (This means: "Nope, not courageous.")
- Explain how to play:
  - You will read a scenario aloud to the group.
  - If someone thinks the kid is showing courage, they are to jump to the checkmark side.

- If someone thinks the kid is not showing courage, they are to jump to the “X” side.
- Read each scenario twice before allowing the kids to respond.
- Continue in this way until all scenarios have been read.

#### **Scenarios:**

- “Your friend dares you to walk along the top of the playground. It’s not safe. She says you’re afraid, but you ignore her.”
- “Your team doesn’t want to include the new kid at practice because they’re different. You invite them to join you, even though your teammates say no.”
- “You find a cool purple pencil on the floor. Later, someone says they lost theirs, and you give it back, even though you’re anxious.”
- “A kid sees someone getting picked on at lunch . . . and doesn’t do anything to help.”
- “You don’t want to go to P.E./gym because it’s new and scary, so you tell your grown-up you won’t try it.”
- “You’re nervous to play piano at your recital, but you still do it, and it goes great!”
- “Everyone in your Small Group, including you, feels nervous about praying out loud. Do you ask God for courage to go first, or do you stay quiet?”
- “Your friends are being silly when the teacher leaves the room. But you stay quiet and keep reading like the teacher asked.”
- “You forgot to bring back a book you borrowed. You tell the teacher the truth and apologize.”
- “You are starting at a new school and don’t know anyone. You introduce yourself to new people.”
- “Most kids at lunch are laughing at someone behind their backs. You stand up for them.”

#### **3rd-5<sup>th</sup> Extension:**

- Give each kid a “My Journey” Activity Page and a pencil.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Walk through the page one prompt at a time.
- Once everyone is finished, ask for volunteers to share one part of their “My Journey” Activity Page together.
- Lead your group to turn the page over and talk through the “Compass Prayer” prompt, pointing out how it can help us look to God for courage.

#### **What You Say:**

“Great job, friends! You jumped, you thought, and you exercised your courage muscles! Courage grows when we practice it. Each time we are afraid and trust that God is with us it makes it easier to have courage and trust God the next time!”

“Remember: We all have chances every day to be brave. Sometimes being brave feels easy, and sometimes it’s hard. And that’s okay. You never have to be brave all on your own! When you choose to follow Jesus, God gives you a gift called the Holy Spirit to live inside you. That means God is ALWAYS with you. He is the biggest and can give you the strength and the courage to face whatever hard thing you’re facing.”

“Even when everyone around you is scared or isn’t making the right choice—you can do things differently! So, this week, when you face situations where you might be the only one choosing courage, ask the Holy Spirit to remind you that God, the biggest, is with you and ask Him to help you take that big, brave step! Nothing is too big for God, and He lives inside of you, so God can give you courage when others are afraid!”

## GET STRONGER (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(Smart phone, Prizes [like DumDums], Bibles)

*From September – November we will be focusing on kids learning the Books of the Bible. September will focus on the Old Testament. October will focus on the New Testament, and November will review both. Encourage kids to memorize the books by giving prizes to those who do. Kids can do it every week if they want! (without help, of course)*

### What To Say:

“This is the Bible. (Open to the Table of Contents) This is the Old Testament – it tells the story of how the world was broken by sin, but because of God’s great love for us He promised to send a Savior. This is the New Testament. It tells us the good news of the promised Savior – Jesus! Jesus died on the cross and came back to life – defeating sin and death. Because of Him, we can have a right relationship with God again.”

### What You Do

- Pass out Bibles – 2 to 3 kids per Bible.
- Open to the Table of Contents.
- Point out the list of Old and New Testament.
- Share with kids that this month we are going to work on memorizing the Books of the Old Testament.
  - *There will be a prize for everyone who learns all the Old Testament Books.*
- Our memorization activity is to sing or say the Books of the Bible. We will focus on **Genesis to Job** today and next week Psalm to Malachi.
- Use the QR code below, if you can access WiFi or clap out a rhythm.
- Once you have listened to the Old Testament books of the Bible song, sing with it together, following the table of contents to help your kids know the book that comes next.
  - *Just play the part of the song that has the books **Genesis-Job**.*
- Repetition is the key to memorizing. Have fun, make it a game and your kids will follow your lead.



## PRAYER

### What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for each of my friends here today. (Name each kid in your group and pray a sentence prayer for each one as the Holy Spirit leads you.) Fill us with courage! You, God, are bigger than anything we face! That means You are bigger than any fear. Help us believe that You are the biggest! Give us courage to do and say what’s right and stand up for what You would even when other people are afraid. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”