

FOUR-FIVE CURRICULUM

SEPT 14

On the Move: Brave the Unknown With God

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

Conversation Starter: When is it hard to trust God?

Bottom Line: God can give you courage when others are afraid.

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

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

Opening Activity

What You Need: Pieces of floor tape or floor dots

What You Do:

- Before you begin, mark small lines in your group space for each kid to stand on.
 - *NOTE: You can also use floor dots. The kids just need a marked place to stand.*
- Instruct the kids to stand on a piece of floor tape or on a floor dot.
- Say, "We're about to play a fun game, and listening is key! I'll call out several actions for you to do, and you are to move in that direction! If you make a wrong move, sit down until the next round!"
- Challenge the kids by speeding up the actions you call out!
- Reset and keep playing quick rounds so no one sits out too long.
- Gather the group to discuss.

Actions to call out:

- "Front"
- "Back"
- "Left"
- "Right"
- "JUMP!"
- "Touch the ground."

What You Say:

"That was so fun! It took some serious focus to make the right move. Sometimes life feels like this—when we're unsure which way to go or wonder if we'll make the right choice. **[Transition]** Well, today's true story from the Bible is about Joshua and some spies who went into an unknown land. Most of them focused on their fears, but two of them put their focus on God, and it made all the difference! Let's go hear the story!"

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY:

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: "My Journey" Activity Page, coloring supplies, pencils, and a device for playing music

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "My Journey" Activity Page and a pencil.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Use the device to play soft worship music in the background while kids work on the activity.
- Walk through the page one prompt at a time.
 - Mountain: Think about a challenge you've faced that felt hard—something that felt too big to face alone. Write about it or draw a picture in this box.
 - Bridge: Think of a time you did something brave and knew God was with you and was helping you. Use this box to praise God for being with you and giving you courage!
 - River: What's something coming up where you need to ask God for courage? Maybe you're trying out for a new sport, or you want to stand up for a friend being picked on. Ask God for help in this box.
- Fill out a "My Journey" Activity Page with the kids.
- Give the kids time between each prompt to process and reflect.
- Once everyone is finished, lead them to form groups of two or three to discuss their "My Journey" Activity Page together.
- Point out 2 Timothy 1:7 on the Activity Page.
 - Ask: What do you think this verse is saying?
 - "Whenever you feel fear, that fear is **not** from God! It's like a shadow trying to dim your light. God Himself lives inside you through His Spirit, and He gives us power and love!"
 - "God's Spirit gives you power. The kind of strength you need to do what's right, even when it's hard."

FOUR-FIVE CURRICULUM

SEPT 14

- God's Spirit gives you love. The kind of love you need to care about others and put others first.
-
- God's Spirit gives you self-control. The kind of wisdom you need to know when to take the brave step, and when to wait."
- Explain that when someone chooses to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live in them, so they can be closer to God, and help them be more like Jesus.
- Encourage kids that God knew life would be scary at times, but He is with them all of the time and can help them be brave, no matter what they're up against.

2. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

Ask:

- What are people afraid of?
- Why do you think most of the spies were too afraid to move forward, even though God had promised them the land?
- Can you recall a time you believed something was possible when others were afraid or unsure?
- What's something you feel nervous about or unsure you can do?
- How can remembering that God is the strongest help you face what you are facing?
- When you choose to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you! What do you think it means to know that God is with you?

3. Make It Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Pens or pencils, and index cards

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a seated circle.
- Give each kid a pen or pencil and an index card.
- Say something like:

- "Has something ever come up that made you feel just . . . not ready? Maybe it was your first basketball practice on a new team, or perhaps you needed to apologize to a friend, but you felt nervous about it and didn't know how they would respond."
- Invite the kids to write down **one thing** they don't feel prepared for.
 - *This could be an upcoming event, a conversation, a doctor's appointment, etc.*
- As the kids finish, direct them to place their cards in the center of the circle facedown.
- Explain to the kids that they're placing their cards in the center as a way of saying, "God, I'm giving this to You, and I trust You with it!"
- Ask if anyone would like to pray for the group.
- Close the group in prayer, asking God to remind the kids that He's always with them. Ask God to give them the courage to do hard things!