



OCTOBER THEME

**FEAR, INC**

**BIBLE STORY**

Exodus 3–6:12; 7–12:42 |  
Spark p. 72-75; 76-77; 78-83  
Plagueslist (Moses' Calling/10 Plagues)

**BOTTOM LINE**

You can do what you should even when you don't feel ready

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."  
Joshua 1:9b, NIV

**LIFE APP**

Courage—being brave enough to do what you should do, even when you're afraid

**BASIC TRUTH**

I can trust God no matter what

**FOR LEADERS ONLY**

**GOD VIEW:** the connection between **COURAGE** and God's character, as shown through God's big story

**This WEEK:** We continue our look at courage in **Exodus 3–6:12 and 7–12:42**. God calls Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Moses gives excuse after excuse for why he's not the person God should use. But Moses doesn't have a choice; God has chosen him. Even though Moses is frightened, he trusts God and confronts Pharaoh to let God's people go. In the end, God's power triumphs and Pharaoh releases his hold on the Israelites.

**Bottom Line:** **You can do what you should even when you don't feel ready.** We all face times when we feel like we're supposed to do something, but fear that we won't have what it takes to get it done. We can have courage to follow through knowing that God can give us what we need to get the job done.

**SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Most kids will not ever feel "ready" to take on something big or new. Pray for your few to have courage to do big things even when they don't feel ready. Ask God to help the kids feel God's presence as they do what they should do.

**•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

Ask kids about things that might be scary.

- What scary things can they think of?
- Examples: Spiders in your bedroom? Birds flying around your head? A giant piece of broccoli on your dinner plate?
- What are some situations that might be scary?
- Examples: Skydiving? Singing a solo? Moving? Taking a test? Going underwater?

**•• WHAT IS SCARIER?**

**What You Need:** Deck of "Scary Cards", markers

**What You Do:**

- Show kids a few of the illustrations on the "Scary Cards" and tell them they get to make their own scary card!



- Hand out the blank cards and markers.
- Give kids a couple minutes to draw their own scary card. If they want to be funny, they can draw something that's not scary at all, or only scary to some people, like puppies, big puzzles, a bike, etc.
- Add the kids' cards to the rest of the pre-drawn cards and mix them together.
- Ask kids to sit in a circle. Then place the deck of cards in the center of the group.
- Flip over two cards and ask kids which one they think is scarier and why.
- Allow time to discuss why they chose the card they did before flipping two more cards over.

**What You Say:** "Everyone has different things they find scary. [Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WoW Family Worship we'll see/we saw what scary things Moses had to face."

*[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]*

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## GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

### •• TWO STEPS FORWARD AND ONE STEP BACK *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

**What You Need:** Masking tape, markers, game dice, a deck of "Bible Story Cards"

**What You Do:**

- Make a line with masking tape and on the tape write "Egypt's Border."
- Tell group members stand in line behind the tape.
- Explain to the kids that they are the Israelites stuck in Egypt and their goal is to cross the "border" and get out of Egypt.
- The first person in line rolls the die.
  - If they roll a question mark, pick a random "Bible Story Card" and ask them a question. They can answer as a team. **NOTE:** The question cards have answers on them, so keep them turned upside down in a stack. Pick and read the cards yourself.
  - If the group answers correctly, two kids cross the border and get out of Egypt. If they answer incorrectly, nobody crosses the border.
  - If they roll a plague picture, one kid who has already crossed the border must go back to Egypt.
- Continue by having the next person in line roll the die.

**What You Say:** "How frustrating it must have been for the Israelites to think they would get to leave Egypt, only to have Pharaoh change his mind the next day. Just when they thought they were getting closer to freedom, they ended up back in slavery with conditions getting tougher and tougher. And the crazy part is when they finally got to escape Egypt, they didn't have time to get ready; they had to leave in the middle of the night. There are times you will have to do something and you wish you had more time to prepare. Maybe you want to volunteer at church but you think you better wait until you're older and then you will be ready. Or you want to try out for the school musical but you think you better wait until you sing better. But it is important to remember **[Bottom Line]** you can do what you should even when you don't feel ready. There are times, ready or not, when you simply have to take the first step."

**[Make It Personal]** *(Share about a time you did something and you didn't feel ready. Maybe it was the first time you volunteered and you thought you needed more training. Or maybe it was the first time you participated in a Bible study and you didn't think you knew enough to really join the group. Or maybe you took a new job and you weren't sure you had all the skills necessary to do well.)*

### •• ON FIRE *(application activity)*



**What You Need:** “Flames” activity page, scissors, markers

**What You Do:**

- Give kids a flame to cut out. They can color their flame red, orange or yellow. If time and supplies allow, kids can cut out and decorate more than one flame.
- As kids are cutting out the flames, brainstorm things you can do to show courage even when you aren’t ready.
- If kids struggle with ideas, give them a situation that might be scary and encourage them to come up with ways to show courage in that situation. Examples could include:
  - Your friend wants to go on the biggest, fastest rollercoaster in the amusement park. You are scared and don’t think you are ready to go on it. What can you do to show courage?
  - Your teacher asks you to read out loud to the class. You are scared because you think you don’t read well and aren’t ready to read in front of an entire class. What can you do to show courage?
  - You have been practicing diving into a pool and now your swim teacher wants you to dive off the diving board. You don’t think you are ready. What can you do to show courage?
- Instruct kids to write a few words on their flames to represent showing courage when they don’t feel ready.

**What You Say:** “Here’s a question for you: When God asked Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let God’s people go, did Moses feel ready? (*No*) No, Moses wasn’t sure he was the right person for the job and he doubted he was ready to do what God asked of him. What if the Israelites asked him questions he couldn’t answer? What if the Israelites thought he was making it all up? Moses wasn’t sure he had the correct words to use to handle this request God was making. But the thing is, God never asks us to ‘feel’ ready. God asks us to take the first step and trust God. Although Moses didn’t think he was ready, he showed courage and did what he should do and listened to God. Moses and the story of the burning bush is a great reminder that **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should even when you don’t feel ready.**”

•• **TOES** (*memory verse activity*)

**What You Need:** Bible, “Memory Verse Cards”

**What You Do:**

- Have kids look up the memory verse (*Joshua 1:9b*) in their Bible. Ask for a volunteer to read it out loud to the group. Let several volunteers take turns reading the verse. Then, say the verse all together.
- Ask kids to take off their shoes and socks.
- Mix up the cards and place them a short distance away.
- The kids should take turns running down to the cards.
- Each runner, using only his or her toes, picks up one card and brings it back.
- The rest of the group, using only their toes, puts the cards in order. (*As long as they’re using only their toes/feet, they can “scoot” the cards around on the floor if they can’t pick them up completely with their toes.*)

**What You Say:** “When Moses spoke with God at the burning bush, he took off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. We took off our shoes and socks today for a different reason. You wouldn’t normally think of using your toes to grab cards and put them in order, but you were able to do it! If we had been there during Moses’ day, you or I would not have chosen him to lead the Israelites. And Moses would not have chosen himself either! But that is exactly who God wanted.

“Some of us might feel the same way Moses did—not ready to take on something big like getting our homework done or talking to a new kid we don’t know. But our verse tells us that God is always with us, no matter where we go or what we do. Remember: **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should even when you don’t feel ready.**”

