



OCTOBER THEME

FEAR, INC

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 2:1-10 | Spark p. 66-71
Basket Case

BOTTOM LINE

You can do what you should even when you don't know what will happen next

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: In **Exodus 2:1-10**, we discover that Moses was born during a time when Pharaoh feared that God's people would overthrow his reign. He enslaved them and commanded that all of the Hebrew baby boys be killed. Moses' mother and sister wouldn't obey Pharaoh's decree. They had courage to keep Moses alive. God rescued him with help from Pharaoh's own daughter who ended up bringing him to live in the palace and raising him as an Egyptian.

Bottom Line: **You can do what you should even when you don't know what will happen next.** Most of the time our fear comes from assuming something about the future that may or may not happen. Courage doesn't mean our fear is gone. Rather, courage is choosing to act even though we are afraid. We'll never know what will happen next, but we can trust God to give us the strength we need to move forward.

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. Some kids are in situations like divorce or foster care where they're not sure what will happen next. Other kids worry about when their next meal will come or if they're going to do ok on their next test. Pray for kids not to give in to the temptation to shrink back in fear, but to move forward in courage.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids:
 - Who are some of the most courageous people you know?
 - Why do you think they are courageous or brave?
 - What would take more courage, to be a lion tamer or a racecar driver? Why?
 - How about a rock star or an astronaut?
 - What about a panda bear hugger or a substitute teacher?

•• WHAT COMES NEXT?

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Read or sing the first part of a song and let kids sing what comes next.



- Examples are below, but you can choose whatever songs your kids would know.
 - This little light of mine ... *(I'm gonna let it shine)*
 - Jesus loves me this I know ... *(for the Bible tells me so)*
 - The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me ... *(I stand alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E)*
 - I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart ... *(Where? Down in my heart)*
 - He's got the whole world ... *(in His hands)*
 - Deep and wide, deep and wide ... *(there's a fountain flowing deep and wide)*
 - So rise and shine and ... *(give God the glory, glory)*

What You Say: "You did a great job figuring out what came next in our songs but, unlike the words in the songs, there are times when you won't know what will come next. **[Transition] Today in Large Group/WoW Family Worship we will hear/we heard about what you should do when you simply don't know what will happen next.**"

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

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.

•• BASKET WEAVING 101 *(review the Bible story)*

What You Need: "Basket Template" and "Story Weaving Strips" activity pages, tape, scissors

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Basket Template" and a pair of scissors.
- Lead them to follow the instructions on the template.
 - Cut out the template by cutting along the bold solid lines.
 - Fold along "Line A" and cut along dotted line. Unfold paper.
 - Fold along "Line B" and cut along dotted line. Unfold paper.
- Give kids a set of "Story Weaving Strips" and instruct them to weave the strips into the "Basket Template" in the correct order of the story.
- Before kids start weaving, discuss as a group what the order of the strips should be.
- If necessary, tape the strips in place before weaving them into the basket.
- Fold along solid lines and tape tabs to form a basket.

What You Say: "You made some great baskets! However, I don't think I would want to float down a river in them. Actually, I would be afraid to float down a river in any basket. There are times you will have to do something you are afraid to do, but **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should, even when you don't know what will happen next.** Maybe you will start a new school and you don't know how you will meet new friends. Or you will join a basketball team but you haven't played before and you don't know if you will like it. Maybe a new kid moves in across the street and you know you should go over and say hi but you're usually too shy to do that kind of thing. It takes courage to be brave enough to do what you should do, even when you're afraid. When you respond with courage, you show others you trust God no matter what." **[Make It Personal] (Share about a time when you were afraid, but you trusted God and had courage to take the first step.)**

•• WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? *(application activity)*



What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- As a group, create a story with each kid adding one sentence at a time. After one kid adds a sentence, you can cue the next kid by saying, “What happens next?”
- Kids can act out their sentence as they say it.
- Story starters could be:
 - I was looking out my window when I saw a spaceship land in my yard. (*Put your hands to your eyes as if you are peering out a window*) What happened next?
 - I went to introduce myself to my new neighbors who just moved in next door. (*Walk in place as if you are walking to your neighbor’s house and knock on a pretend door*) What happened next?
 - I went to our kitchen to get breakfast and there was a giant spider sitting at my kitchen table reading the newspaper. (*Make a face of shock and horror.*) What happened next?
 - I signed up for the soccer team even though my friends were signing up for baseball. (*Pretend to write your name on a sign-up sheet.*) What happened next?

What You Say: “You created some great stories and the whole time you were creating them, you didn’t know what the ending would be but you kept adding to the story. Sometimes, when you are afraid, all you need to do is take the next step. You may not know how you are going to do on a spelling test or if you will make the soccer team, but **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should even when you don’t know what will happen next.** You still study your spelling words, you still practice soccer in your backyard to get ready for try-outs—you take the first step.

“In our Bible story today, Jochebed and Miriam didn’t know how it would turn out when they put Moses in the basket in the river, but they knew Moses wasn’t safe in their house so they had to do something. Even though they were still afraid, they did what they could even when they didn’t know what would happen next. Responding with courage—being brave enough to do what you should do, even when you’re afraid—is one way to show the world God is bigger than your fears and you trust God no matter what.”

●● **ALONG THE RIVER** (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles, blue tablecloths, two sets of “Baskets” activity page, a crown [**NOTE:** This activity will be set up in a large area close to the second and third grade rooms for you to rotate to; feel free to do this activity with the other small groups in your area]

What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible and ask them to look up Joshua 1:9. Read the verse out loud yourself or together as a group.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them 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.

- Create two Nile Rivers by laying down two blue tablecloths. At the end of the “rivers” place a crown.
- Divide the group into two teams and give each team a set of four “baskets.”
- As a team, kids need to figure out how to “float” down the river to Pharaoh’s daughter (*the crown*) using the baskets like stepping stones and without getting wet.
- Once a basket is put down in the river, someone must be touching it so it doesn’t float away.
- More than one person can be on a basket at a time.
- Give kids a minute or two to brainstorm and practice how they will work together to move down the river in the baskets. (Ideally, they will place the “basket” papers down one at a time and space them evenly enough that kids can walk down the river on the basket)

