



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: Copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Ask kids to create a list of things they would need to do in order to be ready for one of the following activities:
 - a midnight walk in the woods after a heavy snowfall
 - playing a song on the piano in front of 100 people
 - hosting a video game night at their house
 - baking a cake for a surprise party for their grandmother's 80th birthday
- When the list is complete, have kids decide which items are most important. Choose an item on the list and ask what they think could happen if they didn't do or have that particular part done. How would it change the experience? What would they do to improvise and make the activity still succeed?

•• **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.]

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.)*



●● **MARKED** (*application activity/review the Bible story*)

What You Need: Bible, markers

What You Do:

- Form pairs and have kids work with their partner to draw a small image of something from the story on the top of their partner's hand. For example, it could be something that represents one of the plagues, a burning bush, or a specific word such as "courage."
- Tell them to keep the images small.
- Encourage kids to use their Bibles to review the story and to find ideas. Direct them to Exodus 3–6:12, 7–12:42.

What You Say: "God had Moses marked out for a very unique job. It's as if God wrote on Moses' hand, 'This is God's guy.' At first Moses didn't see things the same way God saw them. He had a lot of concerns and questions. He didn't know how he could possibly do all of the hard things God was asking him to do. Has that ever happened to you? (*Let kids share.*)

Discussion Questions:

- What are some new things you've tried or had to do this past year? How prepared or ready did you feel in facing them? How might you feel differently about it today?
- When do you feel like you most lack courage? What can you do about it? What would motivate you to actually do those things?
- There will be times when your faith in God is challenged by something that seems impossible for God to get you through. What can you do now to help you prepare for those times? Can you describe how your life might look in the future if you take steps to prepare ahead of time? How is this different than how your life might look if you don't prepare now?

"We all face scary tasks at times. Maybe not quite as terrifying as a Pharaoh, but frightening for sure. It helps to remember that God never asks us to 'feel' brave and ready to take on our 'Pharaohs.' God only asks us to trust God and take the next step in that direction. If Moses had waited until he felt brave enough to face Pharaoh, it may have never happened! But he trusted God and took that first step in what turned out to be an amazing story of courage and deliverance. There will be times when we feel more like turning away, closing our eyes, or even running as far away as we can. Those are the very moments when our trust in God can grow the most. It's through our fears and staying strong that we learn courage because God is with us. God is on your side this week. **[Bottom Line] You can do what you should even when you don't feel ready.**"

●● **IT'S ALL IN THE TIMING** (*memor verse activity*)

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Review the memory verse (*Joshua 1:9b*) by looking it up with your group and reading it together. Use the navigation tip from last week, if necessary.
- Ask kids if there were any times when they faced a new situation or something they weren't prepared for this week and it made them feel nervous or afraid. Did they think of Joshua 1:9? How did God help them to have courage?
- Help the kids learn the verse by playing the following game:
 - Explain that, at your signal, someone (anyone) should say the first word of Joshua 1:9b.
 - Then, in no particular order whatsoever, another kid should say the second word.
 - Continue through the entire verse by having random kids speak one word at any time.
 - Tell them that the goal is to avoid speaking at the same time as someone else. If that happens, the group must begin the verse again.
- Once they've played the game successfully a couple times, try a time challenge to see how quickly they can get through the whole verse.

What You Say: "Today's Bottom Line says, **[Bottom Line] 'You can do what you should even when you don't feel ready.'** Moses is a great example of that. God assigned him an incredibly scary task: rescue the Israelites from the awful Pharaoh. There was no way Moses could be ready to complete that task except to rely on God.

