



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 the kids some of the following questions...
 - What did you do to get ready for church this morning? Help create a timeline of typical things you'd do (i.e. shower, get dressed, eat breakfast, brush teeth...)
 - Have you ever left the house without doing something or forgotten to bring something with you? (i.e. forgot to bring their Bible to church, forgot to bring their jacket when it was raining, forgot to brush teeth, etc.)

•• WHAT'S MISSING?

What You Need: "What's Missing Cards"

What You Do:

- Show the kids the top card.
- Tell the kids that all the items have something in common, but they also are missing



one thing.

- Have the kids try to identify what the items have in common and what is missing.
- After they have guessed, turn the card over so they can see if they were correct.
- Repeat with the other cards.

What You Say: “We weren’t ready for the activities on these cards, because we were missing something we needed. One thing that can make us feel nervous, embarrassed, or afraid is when we don’t feel ready for something. **[Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/ WoW Family Worship we will learn/we learned about someone who didn’t feel ready to do what God was asking him to do.**”

[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.

●● PUPPET BIBLE STORY *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: Spark Story Bible, “Bible Story Puppets” activity pages, scissors

What You Do:

- Work together to cut out the shapes from the “Bible Story Puppets” activity page.
- As kids are working on this, read the three stories from the Spark Story Bible that correspond to today’s bible lesson: The Burning Bush (p. 72-75), Free from Slavery (p. 76-77), The Plagues (p. 78-83).
- Look through the puppet shapes and remind kids what each one is and what part of the story it relates to.
- Work together to use the puppets to act out the story.
- Be prepared to help kids with what to say and do, and let them switch roles in the middle, if they want to. *(At this age, these will be really simple phrases. Moses can say “Whoa!” when the bush catches fire but doesn’t burn up. He can also say, “Let my people go!” multiple times while Pharaoh responds with, “Nooooo!”)*

What You Say: “In our story, Moses was afraid because he didn’t think he was able to do what God wanted him to do. He thought he needed to have the right skills and the perfect words to do what God wanted. That wasn’t true for Moses and it isn’t true for us either. We don’t have to be “ready” to do what God wants us to do, because God will help us and make us able to do anything that God wants us to do. **[Make It Personal] (Discuss a time when you thought you weren’t ready to do something but God was with you and helped you do it anyway.) [Bottom Line] You can do what you should even when you don’t feel ready.**”

●● UNQUALIFIED *(application activity)*

What You Need: “Task Cards”, “People Cards”

What You Do:

- Hand out one “task” card to each kid. Ask kids to look at their cards, talk as a group about what’s on each card.
- **HINT:** To get their attention focused back on the group activity, tell kids they can show they’re ready to move on when their card is held still on the table and they are quiet.
- Go through the “people” cards, holding up one “people” card at a time and letting the kid who has the matching card stand up and show the group.
- Read out the actual name of the task (*i.e.*, “fixing a computer” or “fixing a salad”) and ask the group if they think the person on the



matching card is qualified to help with the task.

What You Say: “Some of these people, at first glance, seemed more qualified than others to do certain tasks. But actually, we don’t know much about these people, do we? The pianist might also be a super-talented car mechanic. The lumberjack might have a great jump shot. The computer tech might make the best salad you’ve ever tasted. If we had looked at Moses, we wouldn’t have thought he was ready to lead the Israelites. He had trouble talking in front of lots of people. And he was really old! But when God calls someone to do something, God doesn’t care how old or young they are or what they have done in their past. You might think that you are too young or don’t know enough to do something for God, but that is not true. God can do anything through those willing to obey God’s call. You don’t have to feel ready to obey God. You just have to be willing. Remember our Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] You can do what you should even when you don’t feel ready.**”

•• **TOES** (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: “Memory Verse Cards”

What You Do:

- Read the memory verse (*Joshua 1:9b*) from the left hand column on page 1 of this leader guide. Then read it out loud to your group. Have the group repeat after you as you read it again a few times.
- 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 learning to tie our shoes 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.**”

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Remind kids that not only did God hear the prayers of the Israelites during their trouble and problems, but God called Moses to go help answer the Israelites’ prayer.
- Remind the kids that just like God heard the Israelites’ prayers and cared about their problems, God cares about our problems, too.
- Lead the kids in a short prayer, pausing several times and telling the kids to silently, in the pauses, say a silent a prayer to God about their problems.

What You Say: “God, we know you know everything we’re thinking and feeling. (*Pause.*) Please help us not to worry about anything.

