



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:**

- Invite early arrivers to share their definition of courage.
  - What does it look like to be courageous?
  - Can anyone have courage?
  - When might a little kid need courage?
  - How about a cat, soldier, parent, coach, a kid your age, babysitter, or a bus driver?
  - Did you or someone you know need courage this week? Why?

•• **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 in life 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.

- **ACT FAST** (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

**What You Need:** Bibles, stopwatch/mobile phone timer (*bring from home*)

**What You Do:**

- Form groups of three and give each group a Bible.
- Tell kids to work as a team to act out today's story. The catch is that they must be able to tell the entire story in exactly 60 seconds—no more, no less.
- As they prepare, have kids look up the story of Moses in Exodus 2:1-10 to check for details.
- Give teams a few minutes to get ready and then invite each group to perform their “Fast Act” as you set the time on the timer.
- Next, give teams another few minutes to figure out how to act out the story in exactly 30 seconds and let them take turns performing the story. If necessary, help kids think of ways to cut their time, such as not using full sentences, cutting out details, or eliminating some of the dialogue.
- Lastly, have teams tell the story in exactly 15 seconds.

**What You Say:** “You guys did a great job thinking fast, talking fast, and acting fast. Unlike a fun review game, Jochebed and Miriam had to think fast in a situation that was completely terrifying. In spite of their fear, they did what they had to do to save the life of Moses. As they laid him in the basket and placed it in the river, they had no idea how things would turn out. The fear of the unknown is a scary thing. It's when we worry about all the ‘what ifs.’ Like, what if I try out for the team and don't make it? What if I talk to the new kid and he doesn't like me? What if I do the right thing but then kids laugh at me? God is calling you to be brave in the world you live in. When you start to worry about the ‘what ifs,’ remember, **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should even when you don't know what will happen next.** God will be with you just like God was with Jochebed and Miriam.”

**[Make It Personal]** (*Share a true fear that God has helped you work through. Even if you haven't totally overcome the fear, tell the kids why you want to have courage in that area of your life. What are the benefits have you found in being courageous in this area of your life? What consequences have you faced when you let fear get the better of you?*)



●● **THEN, SUDDENLY** (*application activity*)

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Sit together in a circle.
- Begin by telling a story about something or someone—a dog, a trip to the dentist, kids hiking in the woods, etc.
- Continue for one or two sentences and then end by saying, “Then, suddenly ...” The person on the right must pick up where you left off and add another couple sentences. That person will also end his portion of the story by saying, “Then, suddenly ...”
- Continue until everyone has contributed.

**What You Say:** “Life takes a lot of twists and turns. You don’t always know what will happen next. You could SUDDENLY face something scary like a broken arm. Or SUDDENLY the teacher calls on you to answer a question in front of the whole class. Or SUDDENLY you’re home by yourself and the smoke alarm goes off. Life is full of SUDDEN moments when you’ll need to trust God in real ways. Courage shows up in the way you respond in the face of your fear; it’s not about never feeling afraid. When you feel scared, you have the choice to be courageous. It begins by trusting that God will take care of you no matter how scary the situation might be. Remember, **[Bottom Line]** you can do what you should even when you don’t know what will happen next.”

**ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...**

- Why can Jesus-followers always have hope?
- When we’re in a scary situation, it’s hard to remember that God is with us. Why is that?
- What are some situations you are afraid might happen one day?
- How can we remind ourselves that God is with us everywhere we go—even when we are afraid? How can this make a difference even if the situations don’t change?

●● **FLOATING DOWN THE RIVER** (*memory verse activity*)

**What You Need:** Bibles, 3-4 foam dessert plates, permanent markers, scissors, straws; 1 for each kid, shallow containers of water, towels **[NOTE:** This activity will be set up as a station that your group can rotate to at some point during your time together]

**What You Do:**

- Look up this month’s memory verse (Joshua 1:9b) with your kids. Use the suggestion below to help kids find the verse, if needed.

**Finding verses with 4th and 5th graders:** Our verse is from the book of Joshua. Ask kids to tell you whether that’s in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (*Old*) So we know it’s toward the front of the Bible. When they find Joshua, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verse 9 in chapter 1. The letter “b” after the verse number means that we will be learning the last part of the verse.

- Read the verse together once or twice.
- Divide kids into teams of three or four.
- Give each team a shallow pan of water and a foam dinner plate.
- Ask teams to write the entire memory verse on their plate and then take turns cutting the plate into five puzzle pieces.
- When finished, have teams exchange plates, place all the pieces in their team’s pan of water, and stir them to mix up the order. Check to make sure each team’s puzzle pieces are equally mixed up so no one has the greater advantage.
- At your signal, kids must work with their team to arrange all the puzzle pieces back into the shape of the plate. The only way to move the plate pieces is by blowing air through their straws to move the pieces around the pan of water. No one can touch the pieces.

**What You Say:** “Your puzzle pieces floated in the water almost as well as baby Moses’ basket! Great job lining up all the pieces. Like each of the puzzle parts is important to the whole puzzle, courage is an important part of the life of a Jesus-follower. When you choose to do what God says is right, even when it’s not easy, you’re growing in courage. Feeling scared or afraid when you don’t know what

