



SEPTEMBER THEME

TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Acts 2:14-39

BOTTOM LINE Together we are braver



- Tonight is the first night in the new interactive lesson format. It takes bravery for the kids to give input in these situations. How can you encourage them to speak up and engage?

MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:

**THINK
ABOUT THIS**

This month in StuMin our theme is Together. The goal for the month is for our students to take ownership of the way that they contribute to unity within their small group and the large group here at church and out in the wider world. Tonight our Bottom Line is "Together we are braver." We'll take the kids into the dangerous world in which the early church was born so they can see how it took real bravery and courage to be the church. We'll then connect the bravery of the early church to the areas where we are called to be brave as the Body of Christ today. Areas such as LGBTQ rights, economic injustice, racial injustice are all places where the church is called to be a voice for the marginalized.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Large Group Interactions

- **We were brave when...** - Tell a story about a time when you found it to be true that we are braver together. For example: I am terrified of bears. I felt better on my hiking trip because the other people I hiked with were brave in the face of this furry danger.
- **Barriers to Together** - Share reasons why we don't practice our faith with other people when we're not at church.
- **Stories of Bravery** - What strikes you the most deeply about the people from the videos that you just watched? Do you feel like you can empathize with their stories? Why or why not?
- **Peter's Sermon** - Have students go verse by verse from Acts 2:14-39.

Small Group Study

Connect



Highs/Lows and Prayer Requests - Share your “highs” and “lows” with the group and then gather prayer requests to distribute to the group for prayer throughout the next week. You can get paper for this activity at the leader bin cart or you can have the students use their phones. We suggest setting up a “group chat” using one of the following platforms: iMessage on iPhone, email, groupme, snapchat, instagram, or facebook.

Questions

- Talk about a time when you had to borrow bravery from someone else to accomplish something difficult. Talk about a time when someone had to borrow bravery from you. Was there a story that you heard from another student in large group that you resonated with tonight? Why?
- Are there times when you practice your faith (pray, read the bible, talk about God, etc) with others (friends, parents, teams, ensembles) outside of your time at church? For example, there are a lot of sports teams that will share a prayer before a game. What is hard about that? Did you take the lead in that practice or did someone have to be brave first?
- Would you say that you have a friction-filled or frictionless faith? In other words, are there concrete and specific barriers to you living out your faith or is it pretty easy? Are you able to participate as a Christian without giving it too much thought? Do you know people who have a harder time? How so? What can you do on their behalf at school, in church, and out in the community?
- Sometimes the friction is within the Christian community. For example, there are different views on LGBTQ issues, men and women, how to read the Bible that could easily divide us. How can we still be brave together even when we disagree?
- Read Peter’s Sermon in Acts 2:14-39 - Peter has always been a go-getter in his faith. Even now, as Jesus’ followers are being persecuted by both religious leaders and the Roman government, Peter decides to stand up for all to see to speak about what he believes. Following Jesus’ example and in the style of many of the early Christians sharing their faith, Peter outlines the way that Jesus fulfills Judaism’s expectations for how God would begin to restore the world from the effects of sin. If sin can be described as brokenness in relationship with God, with others, and with creation (think health, bodies, physical decay) then what are some of the ways that Peter describes Jesus’ work of restoration in this passage?
- One of the primary points of restoration that Peter seems to think Jesus is concerned about are the barriers that are set up between people and God. He talks about sons, daughters, the elderly, slaves, men, women, Israelites, children, unbelievers, and so on. Sometimes it is a brave thing to do to step out of your “tribe” or group of people that looks, acts, and thinks like you to include other people, but that seems to be what this passage is challenging us to do. How willing are you to follow Peter’s lead in creating a StuMin, a church, and a culture like this? What specific actions can you take?
- Did you know that our faith tradition, Lutheranism, is grounded in the brave work by a Augustinian monk? Martin Luther took a bold stand on the abuses of the Catholic church that ignited a movement called the reformation. In what ways do you think we embody this reforming tradition as a church today?

Notes and Prayer Requests



EXTRAS

Braver Together

What You Need: none

What you Do: It is harder to be a Christian for some people than it is for others. It takes some bravery. Who are those people in your life who you can be brave for? If you are someone who has a more difficult time being able to practice your faith out in the open, who is someone that you can reach out to? In any case, write that name down and reach out to them tonight. That step takes bravery, too, and you might be wondering who will stand by your side. Take Peter's cue. He leaned on God in that moment when he stood up for his faith.

JUST FOR FUN

Unity Activities

What You Need: Supplies found in the Media Center

What You Do: In the Media Center you'll find a variety of activities that you can take to your space or another part of the building. These activities will force your group to work together-and have some fun! Each activity has debrief questions. Once you finish your activity, bring it back to the Media Center and then make your way to your small group space to finish your time together.