

LESSON 18
"COURAGE"
(page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

Esther 2-8 (pages 514-518)

CHARACTER WORD

Courage - Standing up for what I believe in; bravery

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

With God's help, I can have courage to stand up for what is right.

MEMORY LINK

Proverbs 3:5a
"Trust in the LORD with all your heart."
(KBC Study Bible pg. 666)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

Courageous Person Outline (resource item), markers

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Option 1: Balls

Option 2: Slips of paper, marker

BIBLE CONNECTION

None

SURF TEAM LEADER

Memory link cards, Hang 10 pages, Index cards, pens

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: Long gift-wrapping tube

Option 2: Beach ball

Queen Esther Saves Her People

WHAT'S THE POINT?

While the book of Esther does not refer to God directly, His presence and protection is clearly implied. God placed Esther in the right place at the right time to save her people from destruction. But it wasn't easy. Esther was afraid. She knew she needed God's help to give her courage to risk death and approach the king. Her 3 days of prayer and fasting revealed her need for God's help and her trust in God's protection. She drew courage not from herself but from the one true God.

So where does your courage come from? In what do you place your trust? Often people draw courage from their own abilities, the money they have in the bank, their connections or their popularity. It's easy to fall back on our own power rather than looking to God for courage. That's being independently courageous. But God wants us to be dependently courageous. That means looking to Him as the source of courage and trusting Him with the outcome no matter what.

In what ways is God asking you to stand up for what is true and right? Pray and ask Him for the courage to stand up for Him, even at great risk or high cost. God is ready to give you the courage you need to complete what He wants you to do.

GET CONNECTED

Building relationships in Surf Teams; introducing today's lesson



Courageous Person Outline (resource item), markers

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the kids in your Surf Team and to introduce today's lesson.

- Give a "Courageous Person Outline" to each kid in your surf team.
- Today's character word is courage. How would you describe a person who has courage?
- Guide the kids to draw pictures and write words on their person outline describing a person with great courage. Discuss and further define courage as the kids draw.
- Remind kids that the greatest courage comes from trusting God.



Guide clubbers to locate and mark today's Bible Connection and Memory Link in their Bibles so they can find the pages quickly as directed in the session.

Worship Tip

You can't give what you don't have. If you want kids to become worshippers of God, then you must be a great participator in worship. Being a worship leader isn't about putting on a show in front of others. Throughout your week, set aside time to praise God when no one else is watching. What you receive from God when worshipping alone will reflect outwardly when you lead your beach clubbers in worship.

MEMORY LINK



Teach a Bible verse to clubbers; help them memorize the verse

No supplies needed

Focus on the Bible

Guide the kids to open their Bibles in the middle to find Proverbs (KBC Study Bible, page 664). Explain that Proverbs is located after Psalms, which is the longest book in the Bible and often in the very center of the Bible. Read 'Bible Explorers' at the top of page 664 as the kids follow along. Explain that proverbs are short, wise sayings. Tell the kids that many proverbs recorded in the book of Proverbs were written by King Solomon, the wisest person who ever lived.

Focus on today's Memory Link

Direct the kids to turn one page to find Proverbs 3:5 (KBC Study Bible, page 666). Ask a volunteer to read aloud Proverbs 3:5-6. *Trusting God isn't always easy. It can take great courage to wait on God's timing or obey something difficult that God has commanded you to do. Today's Bible connection is about a woman who was able to courageously stand up for what was right because she trusted God with the outcome.* Draw the kids' attention to 'Digging In' on page 666. Talk about how the truth of God's word can help the kids trust God and can give them courage to stand up for what is right.

Explain to the kids that they will only memorize Proverbs 3:5a, which is a small portion of the proverb. Challenge them to memorize all of Proverbs 3:5-6 at home with their families.

Option 1 - SING IT OUT

Balls

Explain that kids will use the familiar melody of the song "Mary Had a Little Lamb" but substitute the words of today's Memory Link. Example: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, all your heart, all your heart. Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5a." Guide each surf team to sit in a separate circle. Give a ball to one clubber in each surf team. Explain that surf teams will compete against each other. When the leader gives the signal to start, kids will pass the ball around the surf team while singing the memory link to the tune "Mary Had a Little Lamb" as many times as they can before time is called. The surf team who repeats the song the most times during play wins. Play several rounds as time permits.

Option 2 - ACTIVE VERSE

Slips of paper, marker

Prepare: Write each action listed below on a slip of paper. You can add your own.

Guide the kids to take turns selecting one slip of paper. They must say the verse in the way that is explained on the paper. Each clubber takes a turn while looking at the verse and a second turn while reciting the verse from memory.

- In fast forward while jogging in place
- In a whisper while tiptoeing
- Shouting while marching
- In slow motion while jogging in place
- In a normal voice while walking backward

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Proverbs 3:5a
*"Trust the LORD
with all your heart."*

(KBC Study Bible pg. 666)

Teaching Tip

Visuals help kids see and learn Memory Links. Visuals can be as high-tech or low tech as you prefer. Just remember, the larger your group size, the larger the words will need to be for every child to see. Low tech options: Hand write the verse on a poster board. Write it on a white board and erase a word or two each time kids recite the verse. High tech options: Make a slide for the Memory Link in your video presentation. If you have access to a plotter, you can create and print your own large Memory Link posters. No matter how you visually show the Memory Link in large group, always remember to provide each surf team leader a printed copy of the Memory Link poster for them to use in small group teaching situations.

BIBLE CONNECTION



LESSON 18 “COURAGE” (page 3)

Teaching today’s character word through gospel-centered Bible story

No supplies needed

Introduce the Story

Today’s character word is *courage*. What jobs take lots of *courage*? (policeman, firefighter, astronaut, soldier) People with jobs that help people to the point of risking their own lives require *courage*. But jobs aren’t where *courage* comes from. *Courage* comes from trusting God to help you do the right thing. When you were listing jobs that require *courage*, none of you mentioned a beauty queen. Today’s story is about a woman who won a beauty contest and became queen of Persia. You’ll see how she trusted God and had the *courage* to stand up for what is right.

Esther 1-2

Ask the kids to find the book of Esther in their Bibles (KBC Study Bible, page 513). Explain that today’s Bible connection covers almost the entire book. The book starts telling how King Ahasuerus got angry with his wife, the queen. He decided to find a new queen to replace her. So, the king put together a great beauty contest to find the most beautiful woman in the kingdom to become the new queen.

An Israelite man named Mordecai heard about the king’s contest. He thought about his cousin, Esther, who was very beautiful. She went with the other women to the king’s palace for the contest. Mordecai warned Esther not to tell anyone that she was a Jew, one of God’s chosen people. When the king saw Esther, he thought she was more beautiful than all the others and made her the new queen.

Talk About It

Why do you think Mordecai instructed Esther to keep her family heritage a secret? The Jews who lived in Persia were persecuted and many people hated them. It was dangerous for Esther to reveal her nationality.

Esther 3

Guide the kids to read the heading at the top of Esther 3 (KBC Study Bible, page 515). Haman was one of King Ahasuerus’ trusted advisors and he hated the Jews, Mordecai most of all. A conspiracy is a secret plan to hurt someone. Haman’s secret plan tricked the king into passing a law so that all the Jewish people would be killed, including Mordecai and Esther.

Esther 4:1-14

Haman wanted all the Jews to die. When Mordecai found out about the king’s decree that the Jews would be killed, he tore his clothes in despair and cried out to God for help. Mordecai sent a message to Esther asking her to plead before the king on behalf of her people. Esther explained that she could be killed for approaching the king without being summoned. Mordecai encouraged her to trust God and that perhaps she became queen at that time for the purpose of saving her people.

Esther 4:15-17

Guide the kids to read Esther 4:16 (KBC Study Bible, page 516). Esther instructed Mordecai to lead all the people to fast for 3 days. She and her maids

Teaching Tip

Bring your Bible! The children need to realize the importance of bringing their Bibles to Beach Club. That importance is shown by the amount of time you have them hands on using it! If you don’t ever require its use in club, or use it yourself, the kids won’t either. Point out everyone who remembers to bring their Bibles. Encourage kids to find and read Bible verses for themselves. Involve the Bible in every part of Beach Club and share with kids who may have forgotten a Bible. Does it take more time? Yes, but it is time well spent for the advancement of children knowing God’s word for themselves.

also fasted for 3 days. Esther probably prayed that God would give her courage to stand up for what is right. Esther promised to go to the king after the 3 days of fasting, even if she perished in doing so.

Esther 5-8

After the 3 days of fasting, Esther risked her life and courageously approached the king. The king was pleased to see her and held out his golden scepter to her. She touched the top of the scepter and requested that the king and Haman come to a special banquet that she prepared. The king agreed. After the special banquet, Esther invited the King and Haman to another banquet the next night. The king agreed and Haman was certain he was to be honored by the king in a special way.

But that’s not what happened. God gave Esther the courage to stand up for was right. At the second banquet, she confessed that she was a Jew and begged the king’s mercy on her people. She revealed how Haman had deceived the king and conspired to destroy all the Jews. The king was furious and ordered Haman to be executed. The king issued a new decree so that the Jews would not be killed. God give Esther courage and used her to save her people.

Gospel Connection

Just like God gave Esther courage to save her people from destruction, God gave Jesus the courage to endure the suffering of the cross in order to save people from sin. In taking on sin, Jesus showed the greatest courage of all. When he rose from the dead, he conquered sin and made it possible for you to receive forgiveness from sin and have a relationship with God today and forever.

Ask the kids to help you explain how a person becomes a Christian by using the letters A, B, C. (ADMIT sin and ASK for forgiveness; BELIEVE that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to pay for sin; CHOOSE TO FOLLOW Jesus by confessing Him as Lord and committing your life to Him) Use the tip-in pages in the KBC Study Bible (between pages 626-627) as a guide to this discussion.

Invite children wanting to know more about becoming a Christian to move to the designated counseling area to meet with a leader one-on-one.

Application/Transition

Do you have the courage to stand up for Jesus and for what is right? It takes courage to say, “I’m not going to do that. I’m going to do things God’s way.” Guide the kids to stand up and shout together “With God’s help, I can have courage!”

Teaching Tip

You may need to explain that the words “Israelites,” “Hebrews,” and “Jews” all refer to the same group of people and can be used interchangeably. They are the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Of all the people in the world, God selected them to be His special people, holy and set apart. In the book of Esther, the nation is primarily identified as “the Jews.”

Gospel Tip

When you have a long, detailed Bible story, like today’s story from Esther, do your best to streamline the storytelling so you still have plenty of time to share and discuss the gospel. Avoid tacking on the plan of salvation as a rushed afterthought. Always connect the gospel to the story or the character word, creating a natural flow from one to the other. Manage your time in Bible Connection so both the Bible story and the gospel presentation are given adequate attention.

SURF TEAM TIME

Connecting with kids in small groups; applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word



Memory Link Cards, Hang 10 page, Index cards, pens

Gospel Connection

Before you begin, ask if there are any clubbers who would like to talk with the Bible Connection Leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their Forever Friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.

Today's Lesson

- *What questions do you have about today's story?*
- *What did Esther do before approaching the king? (fasted for 3 days) How did that show she depended on God for courage?*
- *What opportunities do you have to stand up and do the right thing?*
- *Where can you get the courage to stand up and do the right thing?*
- *How was Jesus courageous at the cross?*

Pray

Encourage kids to write prayer requests on index cards. Lead the kids in prayer. Take the cards home and pray for kids during the week.

Thank You, God, for being the source of courage. We praise You for helping us to stand up and do the right thing. Help us be courageous because of You.

Use the Bible

Give each child a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word. Guide kids to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles. Lead them to highlight today's Memory Link.

Hang 10 Pages

Give each child a Hang 10 page. Challenge kids to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage kids to bring back their Hang 10 pages next week.

More at Home

Draw kids' attention to the tip-in page "Bible Heroes" in their KBC Study Bibles (after page 434). Challenge the kids to read stories directly from the Bible about Esther and other Bible heroes. After reading about each hero, guide them to select a character word that describes that person. Encourage them to think about what each story teaches about God's character, too.

Teaching Tip

One of the best way to get to know your kids is to ask for prayer requests. Each week, provide index cards and pencils so kids can write down requests, name optional. You will get more insight into what is going on in with lives since Beach Club time often doesn't leave much room for deeper discussions. Keep the prayer request cards in your Bible for easy access during your personal prayer time or share them with Lifeguards from your church.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

Game to review today's Bible Connection & Character Word



Option 1 - KING'S SCEPTER

Long wrapping paper tube

Form two teams. Explain that you will pretend to be king and that you will extend your "golden scepter" toward one student, alternating between the two teams. The selected student will bow and touch the end of the scepter with one finger. You will ask that student a review question. If they answer correctly, they will earn a point for their team. If they don't know the answer, the other team may attempt to answer. Any child that speaks without having the golden scepter extended toward them will lose points for their team. The team with the most points at the end of play wins.

Option 2 - UP FOR GRABS

Beach Ball

Guide all the kids to sit in a large circle. Number off the kids 1-8. Tell the kids to remember their numbers. Place the beach ball in the center of the circle. The review game leader will call out a number 1-8. Every child in the circle with that number will race to the center of the circle to get the beach ball. The clubber who gets the ball first gets to answer a review question. Continue until all questions are answered.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. *What is today's character word? (Courage)*
2. *What does courage mean? (Standing up for what I believe in; bravery)*
3. *Recite today's Memory Link. (Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5a)*
4. *How did Esther become queen? (She won a beauty contest.)*
5. *How were Mordecai and Esther related? (They were cousins.)*
6. *Who conspired against the Jews and deceived the king to decree they would be killed? (Haman)*
7. *What did Esther, Mordecai and all the people do before she approached the king? (They fasted for 3 days)*
8. *What happened when Esther approached the king? (He extended his golden scepter to her.)*
9. *How did Esther save her people? (She courageously told the king how Haman deceived him and asked the king for mercy.)*
10. *Share a way you can have courage and stand up for God at your school. (Answers will vary.)*

Teaching Tip

Sometimes it is fun to involve your Surf Team Leaders in the game. Consider calling on them in your game today to allow the kids to cheer for their leaders or invite leaders to demonstrate how a game is played. Kids like to see their leaders be silly and have fun, so be sure to include adults in the review game action. Kids will love it... and leaders may not admit it, but they will love it too!



*“Trust in
the Lord
with all
your heart.”*

Proverbs 3:5a

KBC Study Bible page 666

