

BIBLE HEROES

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Like Peter and John, Big Heroes have courage.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that, with God's help, they can have courage.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 4:1-22. Peter and John before the Sanhedrin.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Peter and John got in trouble with the religious leaders of their day after they healed a crippled man and began preaching the name of Jesus. Peter and John were arrested. When they were brought before the Sanhedrin, Peter spoke to them with courage and authority. When the Sanhedrin told them to stop preaching about Jesus, Peter and John boldly defied them.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for heroes that show us what it means to have courage. Make us courageous people like they were.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

BIBLE HEROES

MEMORY VERSE

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

“A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. Let us keep on running the race marked out for us.” - Hebrews 12:1 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Choose four kids who think they know the verse. Line them up on stage. Have the kids recite the memory verse, with each kid saying one word, starting left to right. When you get to the kid on the right, go back to the kid on the far left. Keep going until they get through the whole verse.

SMALL GROUP:

Give all the kids a Bible. After you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

BIBLE HEROES

SKIT

DAMSEL IN DISTRESS: COURAGE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Black outfit (for villain)

Rope

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Damsel

Villain

Potential Hero

Our Damsel is on the railroad tracks tied up with rope. The Villain stands over her.

VILLAIN: I've got you now, Damsel.

DAMSEL: We'll see about that. I'm feeling like this is going to be my lucky day.

VILLAIN: Nonsense. Soon the train will be here and then there will be no one to stop me from taking over the whole town.

DAMSEL: Did you need to go somewhere?

VILLAIN: No. Why?

DAMSEL: It's just that usually at this part in the story you head off for some ridiculous reason.

VILLAIN: Well, not today.

DAMSEL: Okay.

SKIT

VILLAIN: Wait! I just remembered I have a load of laundry I have to put in the dryer. I will be right back.

Villain enters.

DAMSEL: Help! Save me! I need a hero!

Potential Hero creeps onto the stage quietly.

PH: *(very softly)* Hi. *(softly)* Hi. *(not quite as softly)* Hello.

DAMSEL: Did somebody say something. *(seeing Potential Hero)* Oh hello, I didn't see you there.

Potential Hero mumbles something.

DAMSEL: I'm sorry. What did you say?

PH: I said, "I get that a lot." People not noticing me. And not hearing me. People walking all over me, and never respecting me.

DAMSEL: Well, it looks like once again, someone comes along who turns out to not be my hero.

PH: I would like to be a hero. But I'm afraid to.

DAMSEL: You, my friend, need courage.

PH: That would be nice. If I had courage, I would never be afraid again.

DAMSEL: No, that's not how courage works.

PH: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to upset you.

DAMSEL: Relax. You didn't upset me. I'm just trying to explain. Courage isn't the absence of fear. Courage is the dedication to act boldly and decisively, even when you are afraid. It's you saying, "I'm scared, but I will still have the courage to do what needs to be done."

PH: Courage sounds great. That's what I'm going to do.

Potential Hero stands up straight for the first time. He puffs out his chest as he says (as loud as we've heard him so far):

SKIT

PH: Fear not, fair Damsel. Your hero has arrived.

Potential Hero moves towards Damsel.

DAMSEL: Finally.

VILLAIN: Not so fast, hero.

DAMSEL: I was so close this time.

PH: You think I'm afraid of you?

VILLAIN: Yes, I do.

PH: Maybe so. But I also have the courage to stand my ground. How about you, Villain? Do you have the courage to stand up to me?

Villain makes a grand gesture of sizing up and staring down the Potential Hero; then the Villain runs off in fear. Damsel is shocked as the Potential Hero bends down to untie her.

DAMSEL: He's gone. You actually did it.

PH: You helped me find my courage. Thank you.

DAMSEL: I'm free. And I can finally stand up for the first time in what seems like weeks. My hero!

End.

BIBLE HEROES

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEM NEEDED:

Flashlight

It doesn't matter how bold or brave you are, we all have something that we're afraid of. Some people are afraid of high places. Some people are afraid of being in small spaces. Some people are afraid of spiders or snakes or both. But do you know what one of the biggest fears is – one that a lot of people have?

Fear of the dark. The darkness can be scary because you can't see what's out there. There's probably nothing bad out there, but your mind has this way of imagining all kinds of crazy things. If you were out walking on a dark night, what would you need?

Give the kids an opportunity to answer. Then show them the flashlight.

You'd do well to have one of these if you were walking in the dark. This is a flashlight, of course. And it cuts through the darkness. It may not take away all of our fear. But it helps us see what is really there and make bolder steps.

Courage is like this flashlight. It cuts through our fear. We still may be afraid, but courage helps us see what we need to do more clearly. And it helps us make bold steps forward, even in our fear.

Even heroes have fear. But they also have the courage to keep moving.

BIBLE HEROES



LARGE GROUP GAME

SPECIAL DELIVERY

ITEMS NEEDED:

Tape

3 sheets of paper with “Jesus is Alive” printed on each paper

Basket

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose three kids for this game. The object of the game is to get your letter into the mailbox (basket) so that the message “Jesus is Alive” can get out to everyone. In order to do so, kids must stand behind a taped line on the stage, turn sheets of paper into airplanes and attempt to fly them into the basket.

The winner is the first kid to get a paper airplane into the basket. (Crumbled balls are disqualified.)

VARIATION:

Younger kids can crumble the paper into a ball and attempt to shoot it into the basket.

WHAT’S THE POINT?

It takes courage and boldness to share the message of Jesus with others. It’s the kind of courage Peter and John had, and it’s the kind of courage God will give us if we ask him.

BIBLE HEROES

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Like Peter and John, Big Heroes have courage.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that, with God's help, they can have courage.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 4:1-22. Peter and John before the Sanhedrin.

INTRO

We all have heroes. People that we admire, look up to, want to be like. People who have done amazing things and possess amazing qualities. Those qualities are what we call virtues. We discussed a lot of virtues over the last couple of months: obedience, faithfulness, loyalty, self-control, commitment, to name a few.

Today, we'll talk about courage. Courage is that virtue that moves you forward even when everyone else is turning back. Courage is bold and daring. Sometimes, we think of courage as being the absence of fear. But that's not quite right. When we are afraid to do the right thing, but do it in spite of our fear, that is courage.

Courage is such a big deal, that we can't confine it to one hero. So today we're going to talk about two heroes who displayed courage; Peter and John.

Peter and John were disciples of Jesus. When Jesus was arrested and crucified on the cross, his disciples were fearful and grieved. There was no courage to be found during those days. But then Jesus rose from the dead. He appeared to his disciples and ate with them. Their grief was turned to joy.

After Jesus returned to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to fill the disciples with power and courage. One day, when Peter and John were on their way to the temple, they came across a man who couldn't walk. He had been lame from birth and made a living by begging for money.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Peter told the man that they didn't have money. But he took the man by the hand and commanded him to stand. He did, and in that moment, the man was healed. A crowd gathered to see what had happened. Peter and John had done this in the name of Jesus and they now told the crowd all about Jesus.

This did not sit well with the religious leaders of the day. Here's what they did:

READ Acts 4:1-22.

MAIN POINT

Peter and John talked about Jesus boldly. They had courage given by the Holy Spirit. When the members of the Sanhedrin saw their courage, it made them afraid.

These are the religious leaders who had plotted to kill Jesus in the first place. They thought if they could kill Jesus, then his followers would scatter and Jesus' teachings would die out.

But they didn't realize that Jesus' death on the cross had been God's plan all along. And they didn't realize that Jesus would rise again. And they didn't realize that he would send the Holy Spirit to fill the disciples with power and courage.

But they were seeing it now. Right before their very eyes. Peter and John weren't school-educated. They weren't learned men. Still, they spoke with the authority that God had given them. In their fear, the Sanhedrin demanded that Peter and John stop preaching in the name of Jesus. Even with the threat of imprisonment, Peter and John said they would keep serving God and preaching the name of Jesus, no matter what. They never lost their courage.

DRIVE IT HOME:

We can have courage too. When we accept Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit, he will give us courage and boldness if we ask him.

What do you need courage for today? Maybe you need courage to talk about Jesus to people who don't know him yet. Maybe you need courage to do the right thing, even when all of your friends are pressuring you to do the wrong thing. Maybe you need the courage to admit to your parents something you've done wrong.

Whatever it is, we can go to God boldly and ask for even more boldness. Courage will turn you into a hero, just like Peter and John. A hero that proclaims the name of Jesus proudly, and with courage.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for heroes that show us what it means to have courage. Make us courageous people like Peter and John.

In Jesus' name, Amen

BIBLE HEROES

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

What is the most courageous thing you've ever done?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Give all the kids a Bible. After you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids stand up and then repeat the phrase "Jesus is Alive" together. See who can proclaim it: the loudest, the softest, the prettiest, the boldest, etc.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Acts 4:1-22.

Who were Peter and John?

Why were Peter and John arrested?

Why were the leaders astonished when Peter spoke?

What did the Sanhedrin order Peter and John to do?

How can we gain courage?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Give us the courage like Peter and John to speak boldly about Jesus.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

BIBLE HEROES

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

What is the most courageous thing you've ever done?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Give all the kids a Bible. After you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil or marker. Have them create a list of ways that we can boldly tell others about Jesus. Then take some answers from everyone to compile a list for everyone to see.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Acts 4:1-22.

Why were Peter and John arrested?

Why do you think the members of the Sanhedrin responded to Peter and John the way that they did?

Why were the members of the Sanhedrin afraid to keep Peter and John in jail?

What orders did the Sanhedrin give to Peter and John?

How can we gain courage?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Give us the courage like Peter and John to speak boldly about Jesus.

In Jesus' name, Amen

BIBLE HEROES

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANK

Peter and _____ were arrested after healing a man born lame.

JOHN

Peter and John were in trouble because they preached and healed in the name of

_____.

JESUS

Peter told the Sanhedrin that Jesus was the _____ that the builders had rejected.

STONE

The Sanhedrin ordered that Peter and John _____ preaching Jesus.

STOP

Through everything, God had given _____ to Peter and John.

COURAGE

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: PETER



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Today we learned that big heroes have courage. Peter and John got in trouble with the religious leaders of their day after they healed a crippled man and began preaching the name of Jesus. Peter and John were arrested. When they were brought before the Sanhedrin, Peter spoke to them with courage and authority. When the Sanhedrin told them to stop preaching about Jesus, Peter and John boldly defied them. Acts 4:1-22.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

When you see an action movie or play a combat video game with your kid, turn it into an opportunity to talk about courage. What do they think true courage looks like? How can they be courageous in real life? How can they share Jesus with courage?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did the Sanhedrin bring Peter and John in for questioning?
- How did Peter and John have the courage to speak so boldly?
- How can we become courageous people?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

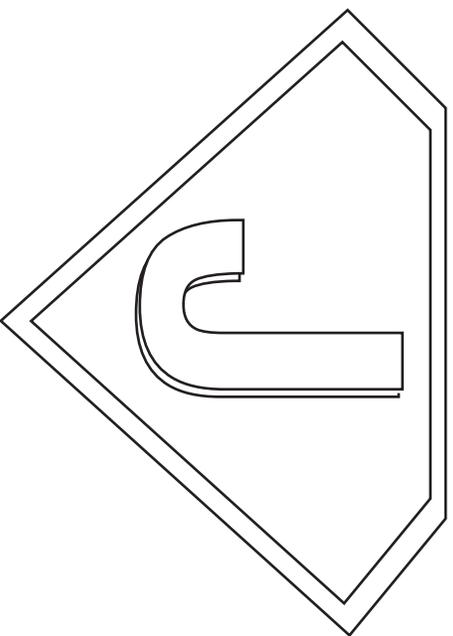
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

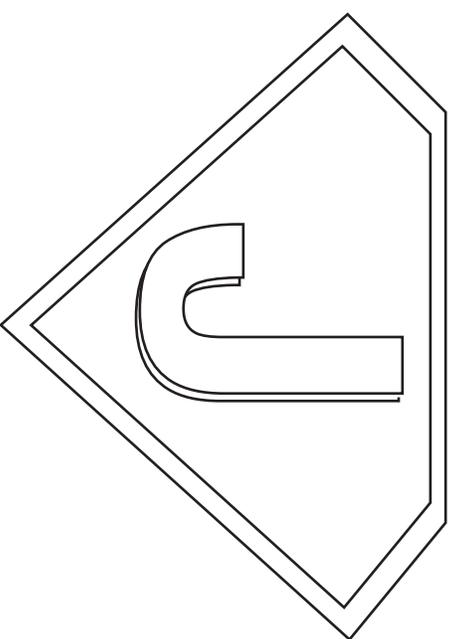
What you need to know:

We don't always have the courage to speak boldly about Jesus, even to our kids. Make a commitment this week, to share Jesus – what he's teaching you, what he's done in your life, how he shows his love – with your kids. Ask God for the courage to be open and vulnerable.



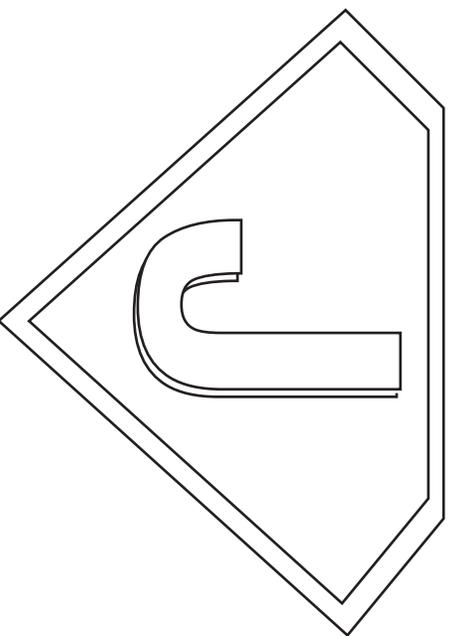
“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



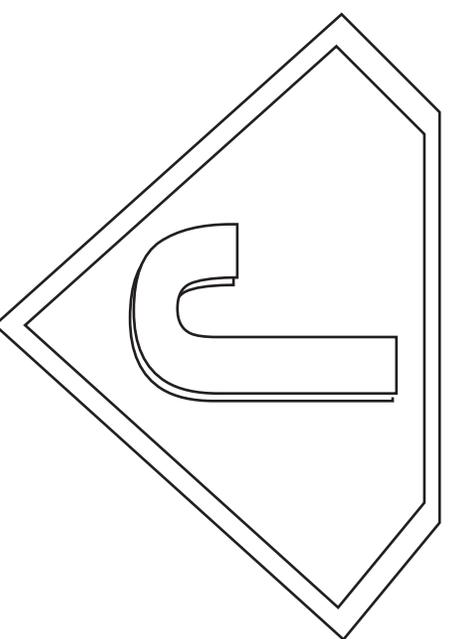
“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

BIBLE HEROES

MATCHING GAME

Peter

Disciple arrested with Peter.

John

The religious leaders of the day.

Sanhedrin

Had been lame from birth.

Jesus

Spoke boldly with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Beggar

The stone the builders rejected.