

BRAVE

TAKE A NEW STEP

Journey Week 1

1. Once students are gathered for service, kick things off with this large group game.

Fear Factor Scavenger Hunt - There are three shoe boxes on stage. Each box has 1 M&M hidden among a pile of assorted craft items: beads, pipe cleaners, pom poms, plastic bugs, etc. Students have 60 seconds to dig through the box, blindfolded, and find the M&M. First student to find it wins.

2. After the game, transition into the talk with the video linked on the Prep Needs page (pages 5-6).
3. The talk is outlined on pages 2-4.
4. After the talk, split students up into breakout groups/small groups with their leaders and take a look at the following material:

Each student will receive a piece of paper with three prompts. Start off your time by filling out the first two:

- 1) Write down ONE word that comes to mind when you think about adventure.
- 2) List 3 ways that people can get prepped for an adventure.

Set aside papers and go into discussion, using these questions as prompts:

- Tell us about a time that you went on an adventure.
- If you had been Peter, how do you think you would have responded to Jesus?
- In what ways does Jesus call teens to adventure today?
- How is going on an adventure fun? How is it not so fun?
- Do you believe that Jesus will be with you on your adventure? Why or why not?

To finish up, have everyone go back and answer the third question:

- 3) What adventure is Jesus calling you to? What are some things you'd need in order to be prepared for this adventure? Who are some people that you'd like to bring along for the adventure?

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Know: God has created each of us for adventure.

Do: Determine what adventure God is calling you to.

Scripture: Luke 5:2-6, 9-11

- Welcome to the first week of the Journey.
 - Journey is this thing that we do around here once a year that brings the whole church together, talking about the same thing.
 - This year's Journey is called BRAVE.
 - Why? Are we going to spend the next 6 weeks talking about her?
 - **SLIDE:** [Merida](#) from Pixar movie Brave
- No! We're going to be looking at living bravely. God created each of us with a longing for adventure, to explore the unknown, to live out a mission.
 - Think about it. What movies always make the most at the box office?
 - **SLIDE:** [Harry Potter](#)
 - **SLIDE:** [Chronicles of Narnia](#)
 - **SLIDE:** [Hunger Games](#)
 - Why are these movies so popular? Because they tell a story about how someone had to accomplish a certain task - their mission - by going on an adventure.
 - These stories strike some chord within us.
 - We relate in a personal way to these stories. ***Speaker, feel free to include a short story here about you have felt connected to a movie or TV show you've watched.***
 - God desires for each of us to be brave and run after our mission. Kinda like this guy:
 - **SLIDE:** [Gru steals shrink ray](#)
 - How many of you guys have seen Despicable Me? Gru's mission is to steal the shrink ray, and he takes several risks to make it happen.
- That's the common link: risk. Each person has their own unique mission and purpose to fulfill in life, but regardless of what that thing is, everyone has to take risks if they're actually going to fulfill it.
 - We don't just see this in our movies. We see this all throughout history, including in the Bible.
 - Let's take a look at this dude named Peter.
 - Things we should know about Peter:
 - His full name is Simon Peter.
 - He's a fisherman.
 - This means he worked overnight, because the fish were out while it was dark.
 - This was a job for people who were a little rougher around the

edges. It's not like Peter was wearing a suit everyday down to the lake.

- He's first introduced to us when Jesus interacts with him.
 - **SLIDE:** Luke 5:2-3 -- "He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, it's owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there."
- Now picture this--you've been working *all night long*, you're getting ready to wrap up and head home for the day, and you see some random guy climbing into your boat! How would you feel?
- After Jesus is done talking, he tells Peter to go further out and let down his nets.
 - **SLIDE:** Luke 5:5-6 -- "'Master,' Simon replied, 'we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again.' And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear!"
- Peter sees this and realizes that Jesus is the real deal. After they land, Peter and his partners leave their boats and follow Jesus.
- Peter had a choice to make a few different times in this story.
 - He could have kicked Jesus out of his boat right after he climbed in.
 - He could have chosen not to throw his nets over, especially after the way his night went.
 - He could have kept all of the fish they caught and just kept living as a fisherman.
- The risks that Peter did end up taking, though, sent him on the mission that God had created him for; this guy was part of a movement that has and still is literally changing the world.
- It all started by taking those risks and saying "yes" to Jesus.
- We are presented with these same situations today.
 - There are three things that we can learn about mission and adventure from this story in Peter's life:
 - 1) Adventure never goes with the norm.
 - Can you imagine what the other fishermen thought when Jesus stepped into the boat? And when they set out to go fishing? They would have been one of the only ones on the lake.
 - 2) Adventure requires obedience.
 - What if Peter had refused to listen to Jesus? He wouldn't have experienced God like he did. He'd just be another dude who cussed and smelled like fish.
 - 3) Adventure uses ordinary things for extraordinary results.
 - **SLIDE:** Luke 5:9-11 -- "For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, 'Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!' And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus."
 - Jesus saw the strengths that Peter had and was going to show Peter how to use those strengths for a new mission.
 - Whether we are old or young, God is calling us all to an adventure.
 - **Presenter tell a story of how God used your strengths for an adventure similar to Peter's.**
 - So what does this mean for us in middle school?

- Maybe you've felt called to go and talk to the guy or girl who always sits by themselves at lunch, but you haven't because you don't want your friends to make fun of you.
- Maybe you've wanted to talk to your family about stuff that you learn here at church, but you don't know how to bring it up.
- Maybe you've been wanting to tell your friend to stop being a bully, but you've hesitated to say anything incase he or she start picking on you.
- Maybe you have an elderly neighbor who needs help with stuff around his or her house or yard, and you haven't offered to help yet, even though you've thought about it.
- Regardless of what you feel your specific adventure is, remember that God has made you for it and that he will walk with you through it the entire time.
- The first step we all have to take is to talk to God about it. That way we can start to get an idea as to what adventure he has for us.
- Let's take a moment to talk to God about what adventure he's calling us to, what mission he's created us for.
- ***Reflection time & wrap with prayer.***

Prep Needs

Large Group Game/Activity

- 3 shoe boxes
- Assorted craft items for each shoe box (beads, pipe cleaners, plastic bugs, pom poms, etc.)
 - Have fun with this! Just make sure the majority of the items are beads, as that will be more difficult to distinguish between the M&M.
- 3 blindfolds

Breakout Group:

- *Per group:*
 - Bible
- *Per student:*
 - Paper with prompts
 - Pen

AV Needs:

- BRAVE logo
- 60 second countdown clock (for the Large Group game)
- Transition video: Link to video can be found on thejourneypartners.org, Week 1.
- BRAVE logo
- Merida:
<http://images6.fanpop.com/image/photos/34200000/Merida-s-NO-10-look-NEUTRAL-EDITION-disney-princess-34225628-647-497.jpg>
- BRAVE logo
- Harry Potter:
https://ctcmr.files.wordpress.com/2010/11/2007_harry_potter_order_of_the_phoenix_002.jpg
- Chronicles of Narnia:
<http://sebastianwolff.info/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/the-lion-the-witch-and-the-wardrobe-2005.jpg>
- Hunger Games:
http://netstorage.metrolyrics.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/hungergamesOST_wp.jpg
- BRAVE logo
- Gru steals shrink ray video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1fMpeiXWCE>
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