

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God gives us courage to stand for what's right.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say, "With courage from God, I can stand up for what's right."

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Kings 18:16-39, Elijah on Mount Carmel

MEMORY VERSE:

"God gave us his Spirit. And the Spirit doesn't make us weak and fearful. Instead, the Spirit gives us power and love. He helps us control ourselves." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

The people of Israel had turned away from God and worshiped the idol, Baal. Only Elijah was brave enough to go against the crowd and stand up for the truth: There is only one true God. It can be scary to stand up to bullies especially when we have to face them alone, but God gives us the courage to do what's right.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to stand up in the face of fear.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

MEMORY VERSE

"God gave us his Spirit. And the Spirit doesn't make us weak and fearful. Instead, the Spirit gives us power and love. He helps us control ourselves." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NirV)

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Have the kids recite the verse together but have them talk like they are all monsters.

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids recite this week's verse. Then test them - and ask who can recite the memory verse from the previous series you just finished a few weeks ago!

SKIT

FEAR TALK: BULLIES

ITEMS NEEDED:

A monster mask

An all black costume for The Dark

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2 M or F

CHARACTERS:

The Monster

The Dark

The stage is set up like a talk show, with two chairs angled toward one another at center. The Monster and The Dark sit in the chairs.

MONSTER: Good morning, and Welcome to Fear Talk. I'm the Monster that lives in a closet.

DARK: And I'm the Dark.

MONSTER: Each week we're going to talk about something that gives us the heebie jeebies.

DARK: That's right, kids. Strange as it sounds, even the big guy and I are afraid of some things. What's something that scares you, Monster?

MONSTER: You know what I'm afraid of? Bullies.

DARK: What? A big monster like you afraid of bullies?

MONSTER: Dude, bullies are awful. They call you names, they push you around, they pull the fur on your face if you have any.

DARK: Well, my friend, I have never experienced any bullying myself, probably because even bullies are afraid of me, but I do know this. God can help you stand for what's right, even with a bully.

SKIT

MONSTER: He can?

DARK: Don't you remember the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal?

MONSTER: Oh yes, I remember. King Ahab was bullying all the prophets of God in Israel. Elijah stood up to him and said, "You think you're so tough? Let's have a little contest. My God versus your god!"

DARK: Yep. People traveled to Mt. Carmel to watch this one on one between a god with a lower case g, and the one true God with an upper case G!

MONSTER: The prophets of Baal called out to their false god all day long, asking him to send fire, and what did they get?

DARK: Aside from some cuts and scrapes, a whole lot of silence.

MONSTER: Then Elijah built an altar, drenched it with water, and asked God to send fire from Heaven.

DARK: Boom!

MONSTER: Ahhh!

DARK: Sorry, didn't mean to scare you.

MONSTER: It's cool, man, go on with the story!

DARK: Right, right, then boom! God sent fire from Heaven. End of contest. End of bullying.

MONSTER: Not so fast, my friend. The bullying wasn't over. Ahab was still king, and Elijah and his fellow prophets still had their troubles with him.

DARK: But the prophets never lost their faith, and they continued to stand up to those bullies.

MONSTER: They didn't do that on their own. God gave them the courage to stand for what was right. And you know I bet he can give me the courage to stand up to my bully.

DARK: Who is your bully anyway?

MONSTER: Jeremy.

SKIT

DARK: Jeremy? You mean the kid who lives in the bedroom outside your closet?

MONSTER: That's the one.

DARK: He's only six!

MONSTER: Six year olds are mean!

DARK: But he's so little!

MONSTER: Says the guy who's afraid of bugs!

DARK: Hey man, you promised never to bring up bugs again!

MONSTER: Look let's not argue. Let's just agree that when we're afraid, we're going to give our fears to God.

DARK: Sounds good to me. Kids, when you need courage to stand up for what's right, God will give it to you.

MONSTER: And always remember, God is bigger than any problem, or bully!

DARK: Especially if your bully is six.

MONSTER: Or a bug!

DARK: That's it! I'm out!

Dark gets up and runs off stage.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A night light

People who fear the dark know the power that can be found in a small night light. Night lights give just enough light to give us comfort. They shine just enough light to give us the reassurance we have nothing to fear from the dark. A night light can give us the courage to get up and move about or the comfort to shut our eyes and rest.

God wants us to be a light in the darkness, to stand up against the darkness and against bullies. We may be smaller than a bully, but God will give us the confidence and courage to stand up for what is right. With God's help we can stand up for ourselves and for others who need someone to stand with them. We can say no to bullying, and we can say yes to loving everyone.

Just as God lit up the night on Mt. Carmel when Elijah faced His bullies, He will light our way so we can take a stand against ours!

LARGE GROUP GAME

CAN YOU STAND IT?

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose several players for this game, or the whole group. This is a contest to see who can stand on one leg, with the other leg up in the air, the longest. The one who lasts longest wins.

VARIATION:

For added challenge for older kids, have the players stand on a short step stool and see who lasts the longest.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God gives us the courage to stand up for what's right!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God gives us courage to stand for what's right.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say, "With courage from God, I can stand up for what's right."

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Kings 18:16-39, Elijah on Mount Carmel

INTRO:

One of the good things about fear is that many fears are easily avoided. A person who is afraid of flying can avoid ever confronting that fear by never getting on a plane. Sure they may miss out on traveling and experiencing things they might enjoy, but many of these folks are willing to give up on those experiences to never go up in a plane. People who fear the ocean or sharks need never go to the beach. People who fear snakes can avoid the reptile room at the zoo and never, ever take a hike outside. And people who are afraid of the dark can flip the switch on a nightlight and sleep with ease.

Unfortunately, there are some fears we can't avoid. People who are afraid of public speaking have to get up in front of class at one time or another to speak. People who hate needles still have to go to the doctor for blood draws and the occasional shot. And sometimes, like it or not, we all come face to face in person or online with bullies.

Bullies are hard to avoid because, by their very nature, they go out of their way to cause trouble. There are many reasons why people choose to bully others, and there are many reasons why they choose the victims they do. If a bully decides they want to pick on a certain person, they're not going to go away easily. The question for us is, how do we deal with these bullies? And how do we help others who are being bullied?

The answer to that question can be found in the Bible. There were more than a few people in the Bible who qualified as bullies, and King Ahab was one of the worst. He was a tyrannical ruler who bullied anyone who believed in the one true God – especially the prophets God sent to try and change their ways. While many of those prophets ran and hid in fear of their lives, God gave one man named Elijah the courage to stand up for what he knew was right.

READ 1 KINGS 18:16-39

LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT:

Elijah was one man standing not only against Ahab, but the army of Israel and the many prophets of the false god Baal. He knew the Israelites were afraid to take a stand against a bully like Ahab, but he also knew God was bigger than Ahab and far more powerful. With God by his side, Elijah stood up to Ahab and reminded everyone that there was only one true God in Israel.

I am sure all of you have or will face a bully at one time or another in your life. When that happens, I hope you'll go to the story of Elijah and remember what God did when Elijah stood against Ahab. God can give you the courage to say "No!" to bullying. He can give you the courage to say "Enough!" to someone bullying others. He can give you the courage to stand up to someone who wants to shut you down and say, "I will always stand up for what is right!"

DRIVE IT HOME:

Facing a bully is different than facing other kinds of fears. People who are afraid of flying, for example, need never confront that fear. A plane is not going to chase you down and make you climb on for a flight to Omaha. Bullies are different. They come after people. They get in their faces. They demand to be seen and heard. So how do we stand up to a bully that just won't go away?

The first thing we need to do is pray. We need to pray for courage and for wisdom. God knows that bully better than we do. He knows why a bully becomes a bully, and He alone can give us the wisdom to know how to stand against bullies. Whether it's someone bullying you or someone you know, God can guide us to say and do the right things.

The second thing we need to do is remember that even a bully is a child of God. Just as God tried over and over and over to persuade Ahab to stop being a bully and worship Him, God wants the people who bully us to fall in love with Jesus. If we do things God's way, we can not only stand strong and stop the bullying, we can lead those bullies to meet Jesus.

I know it sounds crazy, but it's absolutely possible. In the book of Acts, God changed the life of a bully named Saul, whose sworn purpose in life was to persecute Christians. Saul became Paul, one of the great leaders of the early church. God could have done the same for Ahab if he had only listened to God! God can do the same with the kids we know who are bullies.

Bullies are no fun to deal with. They can make going to school, going to recess, and even going online a miserable experience. But if we give God our fears, He will give us the courage and wisdom to handle bullies. With courage from God, we can stand for what's right and maybe, just maybe, show a bully that God loves them!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

Help us to stand up in the face of fear.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Are your parents afraid of anything?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:**2 Timothy 1:7**

Have the kids recite this week's verse. Then test them - and ask who can recite the memory verse from the previous series you just finished a few weeks ago!

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of musical chairs.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Kings 18:16-39

Who was Elijah's bully?

What did Elijah do to stand up for God?

How did God show up to help Elijah defeat the prophets of Baal?

Does God love our bullies?

What can we do to stand up to bullies in a loving way?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the courage to stand for what is right.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Are your parents afraid of anything?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:**2 Timothy 1:7**

Have the kids recite this week's verse. Then test them - and ask who can recite the memory verse from the previous series you just finished a few weeks ago!

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of musical chairs.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Kings 18:16-39

Why was Ahab bullying the prophets of God?

How did God show up to help Elijah defeat the prophets of Baal?

Why is it hard to stand up for what's right sometimes?

Why does God want us to love our enemies, even bullies?

What are some things we can do to confront bullies in a loving way?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the courage to stand for what is right.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

Ahab stood up to Elijah because Elijah was a bully.

FALSE

Ahab had been bullying all the prophets of God.

TRUE

Elijah stood up to Ahab to show everyone there was only one true God.

TRUE

God hates bullies as much as we do.

FALSE

God wants us to hide from bullies.

FALSE



FEAR LESS

Our God Can Conquer Fear

4 Week Children's Ministry Curriculum

MAKE IT STICK

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

Fear<Less Lesson 2

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: BULLIES



IN THE CAR:

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

The people of Israel had turned away from God and worshiped the idol, Baal. Only Elijah was brave enough to go against the crowd and stand up for the truth: There is only one true God. It can be scary to stand up to bullies especially when we have to face them alone, but God gives us the courage to do what's right. 1 Kings 18:16-39, Elijah on Mount Carmel



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids if they've ever had a problem with a bully. Ask them what they would do if they saw someone bullying a friend of theirs. Talk about how they can approach a bully in a way that would not escalate the situation.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- How did Elijah stand up to a bully?
- Does God really love the people who bully others?
- How can we find the courage to stand up for what's right?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

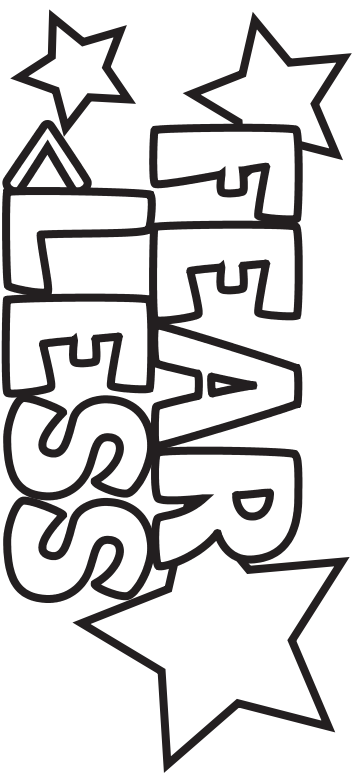
"God gave us his Spirit. And the Spirit doesn't make us weak and fearful. Instead, the Spirit gives us power and love. He helps us control ourselves." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NirV)



PARENT TIME:

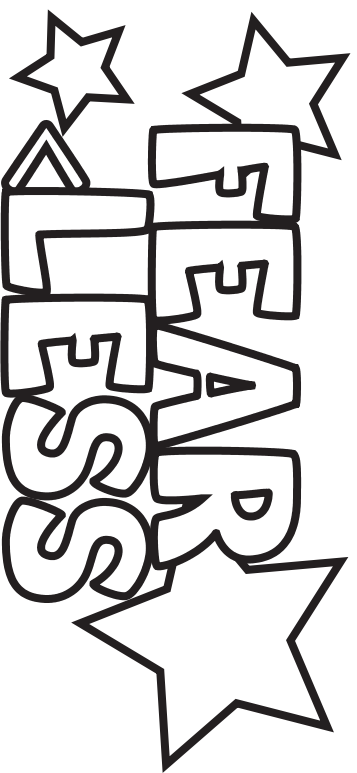
What you need to know:

People are bullied for many reasons. Sometimes we can stop bullying by gently taking a stand. If your child is having problems with a bully, pray with them. Talk to them about how they can stand up for what is right.



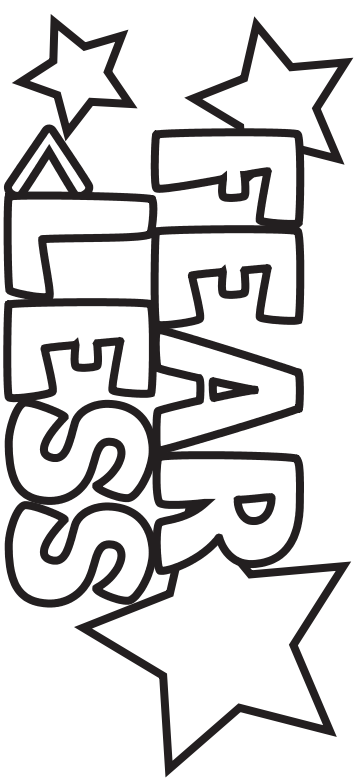
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- 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIRV)



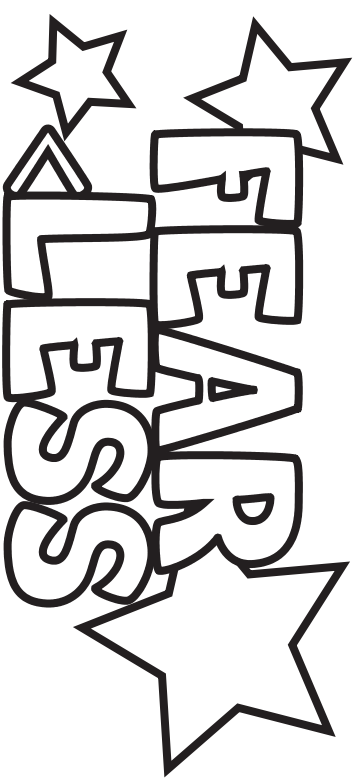
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- 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIRV)

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids make an anti-bullying sign. Cut out a small circle from construction paper, write the word Bully in the center, and then make a circle with a line through it. Punch a hole in it, and then thread some string through the hole so the kids can tie these onto their backpacks.