

# INCREDIBLE FAITH

## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

Faith means doing the right thing even when it's scary.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will identify some times when it might be scary to stand up for Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Esther 4:8-17, and 5:1-3, Esther's Request

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Lord who rules over all, blessed is the person who trusts in you." Psalm 84:12 (NirV)*

**SUMMARY:**

When Esther's people were in trouble, she chose to stand up and be brave. Kids will learn that having faith in God means they can make the choice to do what's right even when it's scary.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Help us to take a stand for you.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

# INCREDIBLE FAITH

## MEMORY VERSE

*“Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.” Psalm 84:12 (NIV)*

*“Lord who rules over all, blessed is the person who trusts in you.” Psalm 84:12 (NirV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

Bring as many adult leaders up on stage as possible. Let the adults go first, reciting the memory verse from memory, then let the kids go. Who does the best job?

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

# INCREDIBLE FAITH

## SKIT

### HERO AUDITIONS: BRAVERY GIRL

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

A clipboard

A super hero costume

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1M, 1F

#### CHARACTERS:

Martin - A casting director

Bravery Girl

*Martin enters.*

MARTIN: Okay, folks, we're finally in the home stretch on these auditions. Only a few hundred more of you to go, and I can finally go home and play with my cats. Just a reminder, these are auditions for the new super hero team, so please do not bring sheet music for the piano player. There is no piano player, and we don't want to hear you sing. Number 567 please.

*Bravery Girl enters.*

BRAVERY: 567 here, sir!

MARTIN: Well hello there. And you are?

BRAVERY: They call me Bravery Girl!

MARTIN: Bravery Girl, huh? That's a pretty bold name.

BRAVERY: I said they call me Bravery Girl. I don't know how brave I actually am, but when I was put to the test, I made a tough choice.

MARTIN: What choice was that?

BRAVERY: I picked the veggie burger over the regular hamburger.

# SKIT

MARTIN: You did what??

BRAVERY: I'm just kidding. I was only testing to see if you were listening.

MARTIN: Okay, I'm listening now.

BRAVERY: Well, it all happened when I was living in the palace of the king.

MARTIN: How did that happen?

BRAVERY: I married him. I was his queen.

MARTIN: Go on.

BRAVERY: I found out that there were men who wanted to kill the people of Israel - my people! I had a tough choice. I could stay silent and let my people die, or I could ask the king to help them.

MARTIN: Doesn't sound like a hard choice to me.

BRAVERY: That's what you think! You see, I couldn't just go see the king any time I wanted. The king called me when he wanted me. If I went to see the king without being called and he didn't want to see me... I could end up dead!

MARTIN: But if you didn't go see the king, your people would die!

BRAVERY: It was scary, but God gave me the courage to do the right thing. God used me to save my people. He made me brave.

MARTIN: And he made you a hero!

BRAVERY: I'd love to tell you that I'm always brave, but it's just not true. I need God to keep me brave so I will always make the tough choice and stand for what's right.

MARTIN: That sounds like the kind of hero this world needs. Thank you, Bravery Girl, we will be in touch.

# INCREDIBLE FAITH

## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

An egg  
Salt

Have you ever tried to stand an egg on one end? It's not an easy trick to do, but if you're clever enough, you can find a way to amaze your friends.

Here's a quick and easy way. Take a tiny dash of salt and sprinkle it on the table. Then set the egg right on top of the salt.

*Demonstrate how to balance the egg with the salt.*

Amazing, isn't it?

Sometimes we need help standing up as well. When we're faced with a tough choice - to stand up for what's right or to be silent - we need a lot of courage. God can give us the courage to stand up for what we believe in. He will make us brave in the face of people who might mock us. He will use us to show everyone that his way is the right way!

If you're ever faced with the choice to be silent or speak out, ask God to give you the words to say and the courage to say them. God can help you point the way so others can follow.

# INCREDIBLE FAITH

## LARGE GROUP GAME

### APPLE STACKS

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Five apples

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

This is a sixty second challenge in which one player must stack five apples, one on top of the other, in a tower. If they can get all the apples stacked within 60 seconds, they win a prize.

#### VARIATION:

This can also be a two person game with two people competing to see who can be first to stack a tower 3 or 4 apples high.

#### WHAT'S THE POINT?

Ask God to make you brave so you can stand for what's right.

# INCREDIBLE FAITH

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Faith means doing the right thing even when it's scary.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will identify some times when it might be scary to stand up for Jesus.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Esther 4:8-17, and 5:1-3, Esther's Request

### **INTRO:**

Every now and then a super hero has to face off with a villain who has managed to deceive the people into thinking he's not a villain, but is actually their friend. Some of the most clever villains actually get the people to trust them and give in to their demands. They run for mayor of the city, promising to take care of the people, to give everyone what they want. They promise to make life better for all the citizens. Deep down, it's all part of their plot to take over the world, but in the moment, the people choose to believe them, and they give crooks like Lex Luthor and the Penguin their support.

So what happens when the hero comes along and tells the people to stop? What happens when Batman stands against the Penguin when everyone loves the Penguin? The people boo! They tell him to go away. They ignore his pleas to reject the Penguin and remember all the terrible things he has done in Gotham.

Batman knows he's right about the Penguin. But for a time, Batman must stand alone. He must be brave in the face of being unpopular. He must stand up for what's right when no one else believes him.

People of faith are faced with this difficult choice all the time. We live in a sinful world. Our world wants to do things that go the opposite of how God teaches us to live in the Bible. People want to be selfish. They don't want to help others. They want to be sinful, and they don't like when someone tells them they are wrong. Yet God calls us to stand up, to be bold, and to speak out even when speaking out is the scary thing to do!

Today's hero is a woman we call Bravery Girl. She was an Israelite who found herself living in the palace of a mighty king. She had it all, and as long as she followed the king's rules, she could keep it all. But one day, she was asked to break a rule.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

She was asked to take a stand that could cost her her life. She was asked to be brave and risk her own life to save the lives of many other people.

**READ ESTHER 4:8-17, and 5:1-3**

## **MAIN POINT:**

Esther had a tough choice. If she didn't speak out, her Uncle Mordecai, all of her family, and all the people of Israel would suffer horribly under a terrible law her husband, the king, passed. But Esther couldn't just go to the king without permission. The king could order her to be killed if she walked into his throne room without him asking her to be there.

Esther knew she could go to the king's throne room at any time, but if the king was unhappy to see her, she could be punished. She could be banished from the palace, put in prison, or even put to death. Esther needed a lot of courage to take the stand her uncle asked her to take.

In the end, Esther went to see the king. He welcomed her, and he promised to do whatever she asked. Esther was born for such a time as this, just as her uncle said. She chose to take a stand, and she became one of the great heroes in the history of Israel. Esther shows us that people of faith are brave enough to stand up for God, even when doing so is scary.

## **DRIVE IT HOME:**

The story of Esther is one that should encourage all Christians because we all have the choice every day to stand for what's right. God wants us to stand against injustice. He wants us to stand up and protect the people who can't protect themselves. He wants us to stand up for Jesus and not be ashamed to let people know we follow Christ.

It can be scary, making the choice to take a stand. Not everyone is going to agree with you. Some people will let you speak, even though they disagree, but others will laugh at you. They may try to stop you or make fun of you and insult you.

No one wants to be told to be quiet. No one wants to be called names. No one wants to have someone else call them a fool. But God is counting on us to do the right thing. He wants us to be brave like Esther. He wants us to take a stand!

One day all of us will stand before God. God will ask if we took care of the needy, of the helpless, and of the defenseless. He will ask if we stood up for what was right, or if we stayed silent and hid in the crowd. What will you tell Jesus on that day? God wants us to be brave. He wants us to take a stand. If we ask him for help, he will give us the words to say and the courage to say them. When you are faced with a scary choice, remember the courage of Bravery Girl. Be bold, and be confident in your faith.



# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Let God use you just as he used Esther, for such a time as this, and speak out for Jesus.

**CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Help us to take a stand for you.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

# INCREDIBLE FAITH

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER:

Can you think of a brave deed that you have done in your life?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**Psalm 84:12**

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of "Have you Ever..." Read to the kids a list of funny and silly things, like, "Have you ever played a trick on your Mom? Have you ever worn mismatched socks? Have you ever put ice cream on salad? Every time you read the question, have the kids stand if they have done the thing that you asked about.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Esther 4:8-17, 5:1-3**

Who was Bravery Girl?

What tough choice did she have to make?

What was she afraid might happen if the king didn't want to see her?

What happened when she found the courage to see the king?

Can you think of some times when it might be scary to stand up for Jesus?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Give us the courage to stand for Jesus and the words to speak.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

# INCREDIBLE FAITH

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER:

Can you think of a brave deed that you have done in your life?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**Psalm 84:12**

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of "Have you Ever..." Read to the kids a list of funny and silly things, like, "Have you ever played a trick on your Mom? Have you ever worn mismatched socks? Have you ever put ice cream on salad? Every time you read the question, have the kids stand if they have done the thing that you asked about.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Esther 4:8-17, 5:1-3**

Who was Bravery Girl?

Why was her decision to see the king a scary one?

What happened when she went to see the king?

Can you think of some times when it might be scary to stand up for Jesus?

How can we find the courage to stand up for Jesus in those tough times?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Give us the courage to stand for Jesus and the words to speak.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

# INCREDIBLE FAITH

## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Esther was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. an Israelite  
B. the queen  
C. both A and B\*
2. Esther heard about a plot against her people from \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. a messenger  
B. her uncle\*  
C. the king
3. If the king didn't want to see Esther, she \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. could come back another time  
B. could sit down and talk to him anyway  
C. could die\*
4. When Esther went to see the king, he \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. offered her anything she asked\*  
B. threw her out  
C. sent her to jail
5. God can give us the courage to speak up, even when we feel \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. silly  
B. brave  
C. scared\*



# MAKE IT STICK

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

## Incredible Faith 10

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: BRAVERY GIRL



#### IN THE CAR:

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

When Esther's people were in trouble, she chose to stand up and be brave. Kids will learn that having faith in God means they can make the choice to do what's right even when it's scary. Esther 4:8-17, and 5:1-3, Esther's Request



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids if they can think of any real life examples of people who are bold in standing up for Jesus? (Some good celebrity examples might be Tim Tebow or Sadie Robertson). Ask them if they have opportunities to take a stand for Jesus with their friends? Ask them if it is hard to do and why or why not?



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who is Bravery Girl?
- What was so important that Bravery Girl had to take a stand?
- What are some important causes we can stand up for as Christians?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

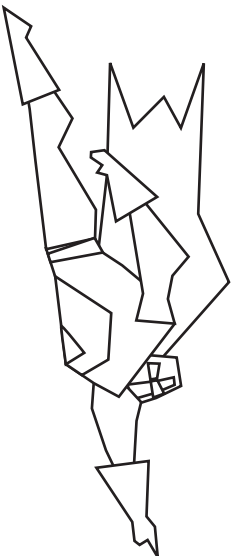
*"Lord who rules over all, blessed is the person who trusts in you." Psalm 84:12 (NIRV)*



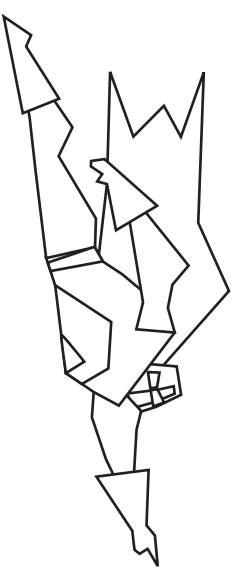
#### PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

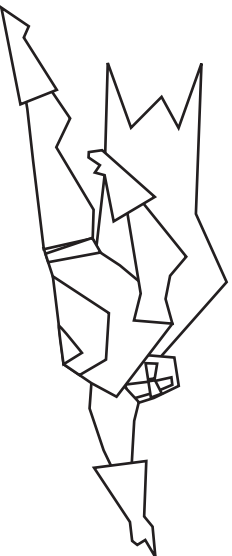
Christians are not called to be passive bystanders in life. As followers of Christ, we need to defend those who cannot defend themselves. We must fight for justice, and we must show Christ's love boldly to those around us. Pray that your kids will have a spirit of courage to stand up for what's right, even when doing so may seem scary.



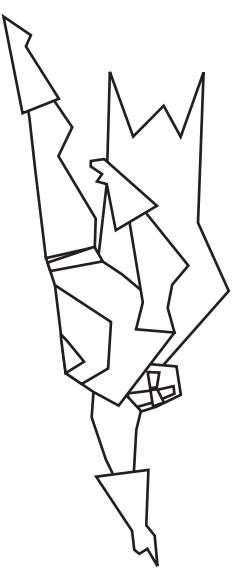
"Lord who rules over all, blessed is the person who trusts in you."  
- Psalm 84:12 (NIRV)



"Lord who rules over all, blessed is the person who trusts in you."  
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"Lord who rules over all, blessed is the person who trusts in you."  
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"Lord who rules over all, blessed is the person who trusts in you."  
- Psalm 84:12 (NIRV)

# INCREDIBLE FAITH

## CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids make “Power Bands” they can wear to encourage them to stand strong and speak up for God. These can be braided wristbands or simply paper bands made from construction paper. Let the kids decorate them and put Bible verses on them as they want.