**Boldness**

Having courage in difficult or dangerous situations.

**Proverbs 28:1 (NASB)**

“The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, but the righteous are bold as a lion.”

**Opposite**—Cowardice

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**Story and discussion questions**

One day while walking to school, Beth noticed two older girls giving one of her friends named Teri a bad time. The two older girls were in the seventh grade and known for picking on younger students by teasing them or doing other mean things. Beth, a sixth grader, decided to stick up for her friend. As she came close to the group she said, “Come on Teri, I’ll walk with you to school.” Before Teri could say anything, one of the older girls said, “Get lost, Beth, this has nothing to do with you.” Beth responded, “Come on Teri, these girls are just plain mean.” The other older girl said more sternly to Beth, “You’ll leave now if you know what’s good for you.”

Without hesitation, Beth, walked between the two girls, took Teri’s hand and started walking quickly towards school. “The oldest girl grabbed Beth’s arm saying, ‘Now you’ve done it, and now you are going to be sorry.’” Just then a voice came from down the sidewalk, “Is there a problem here.” Quickly the older girl released Beth’s arm and left the scene with her accomplice. Beth turned toward the voice and was glad to see her sixteen year old brother walking toward she and Teri...

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1. Have you ever met someone like the two girls who were picking on Teri? What did they do?
2. How did Beth display boldness in the midst of a difficult situation?
3. What might have happened to Beth if her brother hadn’t come along?
4. Have you ever had to be bold? What happened?

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**Biblical account and discussion questions**

The story takes place while the Jews are battling the Philistines who are their arch enemies. At that time, Saul was king and Jonathan was his son.

**1 Samuel 14:6-14 (NASB)**

“6 Then Jonathan said to the young man who was carrying his armor, ‘Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the Lord will work for us, for the Lord is not restrained to save by many or by few.’ 7 His armor bearer said to him, ‘Do all that is in your heart; turn yourself, and here I am with you according to your desire.’ 8 Then Jonathan said, ‘Behold, we will cross over to the men and reveal ourselves to them. 9 If they say, ‘Come up to us,’ then we will go up, for the Lord has given them into our hands; and this shall be the sign to us.’ 11 When both of them revealed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines, the Philistines said, ‘Behold, Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves.’ 12 So the men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor bearer and said, ‘Come up to us and we will tell you something.’ And Jonathan said to his armor bearer, ‘Come up after me, for the Lord has given them into our hands; and this shall be the sign to us.’ 13 Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, with his armor bearer behind him; and they fell before Jonathan, and his armor bearer put some to death after him.”
and his armor bearer made was about twenty men within about half a furrow in an acre of land.”

1. Summarize the story in your own words.
2. How did Jonathan show boldness?
3. How did Jonathan’s armor bearer show boldness?
4. How did God honor Jonathan’s boldness?

More discussion questions
1. What are other words for boldness? (courage, bravery, daring, confidence)
2. What picture would you use to illustrate boldness?
3. In time of war why is it important for soldiers to have courage?
4. Can you think of any courageous acts in Scripture or in the world today?
5. Read 2 Chronicles 15:1-9. What caused Asa to have courage? What did he do with it?
6. Read Ac 13:44-52. How did Paul and Barnabas show boldness? What happened?
7. Why does it take courage to follow God's will? (it may bring persecution)
8. Read Pr 28:1. How are boldness and righteousness connected?
9. Name a situation or circumstance requiring boldness.
10. What does the following quote have to do with boldness? "Attempt great things for God. Expect great things from God."
11. The phrase "be strong and courageous" is used many times in the Old Testament. Why were the people in the following passages told to be strong and courageous? Deut 31:1-8,22,23, 1 Chr 28:20, 2 Chr 32:7,8.
12. Read Philippians 1:12-14. How did Paul's imprisonment affect the boldness of other Christians? (it caused them to be bold, too)
13. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-4. In what circumstances did Paul find himself which required boldness? What happened?
14. In 1 Thessalonians 2:1-4 what does Paul say about pleasing God and pleasing man? How does this relate boldness? (we are to please God rather than men)
15. How did Joseph of Arimathea show boldness in Matthew 27:57-60? Was he in any danger? (He buried Jesus. He was in danger of being persecuted.)

by leaving)
17. Read Hebrews 4:15,16. Because Christ understands our hardships, what can Christians do with confidence? (come before His throne of grace)
18. Read Hebrews 13:5,6. What are Christians to say with confidence?
19. What can we learn from Paul about boldness in Philippians 1:18-21?
20. How was boldness shown by Peter and John in Acts 4:1-22? What was the reaction of the religious leaders to them in verse thirteen?
21. According to 1 John 4:16-21 why can Christians have confidence on judgment day? (because God's love is in them and working through them)
22. What was Paul's prayer request in Ephesians 6:18-20? Is his request yours?

Application
1. Do you tend to be bold in your faith? Why or why not? Give an example.
2. Have you ever seen someone boldly share Christ? What happened?
3. How can you be bolder in your faith at school, work, or in your home?
4. Why must your boldness be linked with wisdom and discretion?
5. Make a list of things you can do to be more bold for Christ.

Activities
1. Write and perform a short skit that illustrates boldness at school.
2. Write and perform a skit that illustrates boldness at work.
3. Write down the memory verse and then cut it into pieces with each piece being one word of the text. Take turns putting it together for time. See who can do it the fastest.
4. Pray and ask God to help you become more bold for Him.

Notes:
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