

BIG IDEA

God helps me be brave.

BIBLE

Rahab Helps the Spies

Joshua 2

MEMORY VERSE

“Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid...I will be with you everywhere you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NirV)

SCHEDULE: WELCOME ACTIVITIES **15-20 minutes**

LARGE GROUP LESSON **20-25 minutes**

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES: **25-35 minutes** (15 minute rotations)

LARGE GROUP

WELCOME | **WORSHIP**

INSTRUCTIONS: As children enter the story time area, give them a high-energy welcome — smile, wave, give high fives, and tell them you’re glad to see them. Invite the kids to worship with you. There are instruments and ribbons under the desk for you to use anytime. Please remind them:

- **Worship is a way to show God how much you love Him and to thank Him for all He has done.**
- **Worship makes God happy. God loves it when we sing and pray to Him**
- **Please stand during worship and use inside walking feet only.**

Music: play worship songs and lead the kids in singing

After the songs, help the children sit down by saying the following rhyme with them:

LARGE GROUP

Topher the Gopher 1, 2, 3. (Clap on each number.)

Digs a hole right under me. (Make a motion as if digging with a shovel.)

Slowly I start sinking down. (Twist your body back and forth, lower and lower to the ground.)

Until I'm sitting on the ground. (Sit down on ground or chair.)

BIBLE STORY | Rahab Helps the Spies, Joshua 2

INSTRUCTIONS: Pass out the fruit snacks during the Bible Story Rules video, **remind them to hold their trash till the end of the story.**

Say, before the Video:

- Hello everybody — it's so, so great seeing you at church today. It makes God so happy when we gather together and learn about His words in the Bible! In just a little bit, we're going to learn about the Bible with the help of Otis the cat.
- Today's true Bible story is going to teach us that God helps me be brave. That's our Big Idea for the day. Let's say it together. (Repeat Big Idea with children.) **God helps me be brave.** It's true! **God helps me be brave**
- Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

STORY TIME RULES

Video: Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video

BE KIND

BE SAFE.

HAVE FUN

Video: Play "Topher Time" video (Bible Story)

LARGE GROUP

PRAYER

“Open shut them, open shut them, give your hands a clap. Open shut them, open shut them, place your hands in your lap”

- Let’s say a prayer together and ask God to help us be brave when something scary happens. (Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.)
- Dear God, Please help me to be brave. when something scary happens. Give me the courage. to love and follow Jesus. Amen

SMALL GROUP 1

COPY THAT (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: None

Today’s Bible verse:

“Be strong (flex muscles) and brave (power pose with fists on hips). Do not be afraid (Shake head and wag finger “no”)...I will be with you (hug yourself) everywhere you go (march in place). Joshua 1:9 (extend hands like you’re holding a book).

Directions: Practice the verse together several times. When ready, tell the children to say the verse with you while copying your action. For example,

spin around, or hop on one foot, or hold your tongue, or do a silly dance.

When finished, choose a child to be the leader, then have everyone say the verse while copying them. Continue until everyone has had a turn being the leader.

SMALL GROUP 1

STORY BOP (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Balloon (1 per group), music

Directions: Have the children stand in a cluster. Begin playing music. As the music plays, the children must gently *bop the balloon* into the air.

Let the music play for 5–20 seconds, then pause it. When the music stops, the children must try to *catch the balloon*.

Ask the child who catches it the next story review question. Allow them to answer with a small part of the story. If they need help, let the other children help answer. Continue playing until the whole Bible story has been reviewed in order.

Story Review Questions in Order

1. Who sent two spies to Jericho?

Joshua sent two spies to Jericho.

2. What did the spies do?

They snuck into Jericho to spy with their eyes.

3. Who helped the spies?

Rahab helped the spies.

4. What did Rahab do for the spies?

Rahab invited the spies into her house.

5. How did Rahab feel when the king's men came?

Rahab felt afraid.

6. What did Rahab do to help the spies?

Rahab hid the spies on her roof.

SMALL GROUP 1

STORY BOP CONITNUED

Story Review Questions in Order

7. What did Rahab ask the spies to do?

Rahab asked them to keep her and her family safe.

8. How did Rahab help the spies escape?

Rahab helped them climb down a rope and leave the city.

9. What did God do for Rahab and her family?

God kept Rahab and her family safe.

Say: Rahab was brave and helped the spies. God helped Rahab be brave, and God can help us be brave too.

Question: What was your favorite part of this story? Why did you like that part?

Big Idea: God helps me be brave.

SMALL GROUP 2

RAHAB'S RED ROPE (Bible Story Craft Activity)

Supplies: house printable, red yarn/string, crayons, glue or tape

Directions: Give each child a house printable to color. Help the children glue a red yarn rope coming out of Rahab's window. As they work, remind them that Rahab helped the spies escape and that God helped Rahab be brave.

Say: Rahab helped the spies hide and escape down a rope.

SMALL GROUP 2

RAHAB'S RED ROPE CONTINUED

Say: The red rope helps us remember Rahab's brave choice. God helped Rahab be brave, and God helps us be brave too.

Question: Who helped the spies?
Who helps you be brave?

Rahab helped the spies.
GOD HELPS ME BE BRAVE!

I **SPY A SPY** (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: In today's true Bible story, Rahab did something very brave — she hid the good spies of Israel from the king's men. God helped Rahab be brave and He helps us be brave too! Let's play a game to help us remember that.

Directions: Have the children all sit down. Say, for example,

"I spy a spy with a blue shirt."

All of the children with blue shirts must stand up and say,

"God helps me be brave."

Choose one of the children who are standing to answer the question below, then have the children sit down. Repeat the above instructions, each time choosing a different attribute such as

brown hair, wearing sandals, is a boy, is a girl, etc.

Continue for as long as time and interest allow.

Question: When do you need God to help you be brave?

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

The phone rang and I answered. On the other end of the telephone was a job offer. Not just for any job, but for my dream job. Ecstatic, I accepted the position that I had been prayerfully considering for months.

The organization that I was going to work for was in financial trouble at the time, but I was hired to work on a project that was sure to bring a steady stream of income into the company. After eight short months of employment, the organization's finances took a turn for the worse and I found myself sitting in a room full of my teammates listening to the Human Resources representative explain our severance benefits. As I read over the packet they gave us, my heart felt heavy and my mind immediately began to fill with fear. My husband and I had just purchased a new home and the economy was in bad shape. How long would it be before I had another job? How could this happen to me? How could God let something bad like this happen to me? I was sure that I felt God's peace when I accepted this role and was confident that He orchestrated the events that led me to taking this job. What now — where is God in this? I cleared out my desk and headed home. Sitting in the parking lot with tears rolling down my face, I felt God whisper, "Just trust me. I'm still here."

Psalm 9:10 says, "Lord, those who know you will trust in you. You have never deserted those who look to you." During that season of unemployment, I found myself needing daily reminders that God is with me. He had not abandoned me. God doesn't promise that He will keep us from harm or hardship, but His word reminds us that He will always be with us — no matter what.

In Joshua 2:11, Rahab declared, "The Lord your God is the God who rules in heaven above and on the earth below." God created the world and rules over it. He knows every detail about every situation. He is Alpha and Omega, He is always with you, and He will never leave you.

Is there any area of your life that you need to be reminded to put your trust in God? He's here and he wants to walk this journey with you. God rules our world forever, and He wants you to trust Him. He will never abandon you.

Sandy Riggs
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SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Managing Small Group Materials

As you're probably aware, GO! small group activities often utilize a variety of materials. From paper to ping pong balls, there are any number of items that you might have to juggle while keeping your kids engaged. Here are some tips to help keep you from dropping the ball:

Be prepared. If you're reading the small group lesson for the first time while seated with a group of wide-eyed kids, you might be in for a wild ride. Always read the lesson before arriving and have a plan for when and how you'll incorporate the accompanying materials.

Take inventory of your materials when you arrive. No one's perfect, and occasionally you might be missing a material or there might not be enough materials for the number of kids you have. Take inventory as soon as you arrive so that you can catch mistakes early.

Familiarize yourself with the materials. Sometimes the materials might look slightly different from how you imagined when you were reading the lesson at home. Take a look at the materials when you first arrive so there are no surprises during group time.

Don't reveal the materials too early. Kids can be easily distracted. Often, if you reveal or hand out materials too soon, the kids will become more interested in the material and miss your instructions. Fully deliver your instructions before handing out the materials. If necessary, pull out just one set of materials for demonstration purposes.

Let the kids help you. If there are papers or other materials that need to be given to each kid in the group, put the kids to work. They love helping! Choose one or two kids and let them hand materials to the rest of the group.