

# 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Courage – Week 3 – March 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>

### Bible Story: The Heat is On

### Bring Your Parent to KidsQuest Day

**Virtue:** Courage—being brave enough to do what you should do even when you're afraid.

**Memory Verse:** "When I am afraid, I will trust in you." *Psalm 56:3, NIV*

**Bible Story:** The Heat Is On (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) • *Daniel 3*

**Bottom Line:** Remember God is with you when you do the right thing.

#### FOR LEADERS ONLY

Like we said last week, (1) courage is being brave enough to do what you should do even when you're afraid. Courage doesn't mean we won't be afraid, but it DOES mean not letting our fears keep us from doing what we should do. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are prime examples. Faced with a fiery retaliation, they refused to buckle under, saying that even if God didn't rescue them from certain death, they still wouldn't bend a knee to that fake god. (2) That's the kind of courage that can only come from God and the kind of courage He wants to build in each of us. Kids may never be faced with pressure to worship a gold idol, but there are plenty of other snags, pitfalls, and other dangers that can bring them to their knees. They need to know that the God who rescued Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego can help THEM do the right thing, too. (4) And when they do the right thing, even when it's not cool or popular, it can have a profound impact on others.

#### Prep & prayer time with leaders:

Please arrive 15 minutes early, so we can go over any questions you may have or any last minute changes. We would also like to pray as a group for our time together.

#### Check-in/Opening Activity (A2 15 minutes):

##### **Tabletop Football**

SUPPLIES: table, coin, several pieces of paper

Tell kids to make a football out of a piece of paper. (For a refresher on folding paper footballs, do a Google® search of "paper football.") Play tabletop football while asking open-ended, real-life scenario questions related to courage. (*For example: Are you afraid of your basement? Why? Is there anything in your life that you're afraid of? What are kids your age typically afraid of? What is something you can do when you're afraid? Where does courage come from? Does having courage mean not being afraid?*) You can also have the other team come up with questions for their opponents. This is a good way to encourage older kids to begin taking on leadership roles. Let the kids work in teams to answer the questions. Here's how to play:

#### **Rules for Tabletop Football:**

1. Decide how many points you want to play to. Thirty-five is a good goal. Flip a coin. The winner of the toss can choose to "flick off" or receive.
2. Next, the flicker sets the football flat in front of him and flicks it with his finger toward his opponent. The receiving player then has four flicks, or downs, to slide the ball so that part of it—even a fraction—overhangs the table edge. Touchdown!
3. If the football falls off the edge of the table, the defending player takes possession. If it stops short of the end zone on the fourth flick, the defense takes over where the ball came to rest.
4. After a touchdown, the scoring player gets to try for the extra point by "kicking" the ball from his end zone through his opponent's goalposts, which is made by forming an "L" with both hands and putting the tips of your thumbs together.
5. If a player flicks the ball off the table three times, the defending player can attempt a 3-point field goal the same way, by "kicking" the ball through the goalposts. It's up, and it's good!

## WRAP UP

**Classroom Facilitator:** “We’ve talked a lot about courage this morning. *[Transition]* Let’s go to large group and find out what God has to say about courage when things get hot.”

## LARGE GROUP: WORSHIP & TEACHING (B108-35 MINUTES)

### Small Group Activities (A2):

#### 1. Wrong Thing/Right Diagram (*application activity / great for boys*)

SUPPLIES: BIG paper taped to wall, pens or pencils

Ask each child to think of a situation that kids their age may face in real life when they have a scary choice to make and they have to choose to have courage to do the right thing—such as when they are moving to a new city, when their parents are divorcing, when they are going to a new school, or when they are going to the hospital for surgery. Let them write/or leader write the situation on the paper taped to the wall. You/they could draw pictures too. Ask kids discuss both an un-courageous choice (wrong thing) and a courageous choice (right thing) in those situations. ***[Apply]* As groups finish, ask a few follow-up questions to help kids understand that, while it may be hard to do the right thing, God is with you and will help you do the right thing and choose courage.**

***[Personalize]* Tell kids about a time you had a scary choice but didn’t let your fear keep you from doing what you should do. Did knowing God was with you help you have courage?**

**SMALL GROUP LEADER:** “Courage helps us do the right thing. ***[Apply]* Courage doesn’t mean we won’t be afraid, but it does mean not letting our fears keep us from doing what we should do.** It’s not always easy to do the right thing, and it’s not always easy to have courage. But God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and God will be with you. ***[Impress]* Remember God is with you when you do the right thing.**”

#### 2. Heat It Up (*memory verse activity*)

SUPPLIES: Bibles

Lead kids to open the Bibles to Psalm 56:3. Ask kids to read the verse together as a group. Encourage volunteers to share their definition of “trust” with the group. You may want to encourage kids to tell what it means to trust a parent or a friend, and then to compare what it means to trust God. ***[Apply]* Is God more worthy of trust or less worthy of trust than the people we know?**

To help kids memorize the verse, ask kids to repeat the chant/rap/rhythm up themselves. Let them add clap/slap/stomp motions as accompaniment. Encourage them to practice the verse, chant, and motions several times.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER:** “God is more worthy of our trust than any person you know. He’s super-trustworthy! ***[Apply]* You can trust God to be with you, even when you’re afraid.** Having courage doesn’t mean we won’t be afraid, but it DOES mean not letting our fears keep us from doing what we should. ***[Impress]* Remember God is with you when you do the right thing.**”

#### 3. Courage and Effect (*pray*)

SUPPLIES: index cards, pens or pencils

Give each person an index card and a pen or pencil. Ask kids to draw a line down the middle of the card. On the left side of the card, kids can write the people who saw and were changed by the courage

of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. **[Apply] On the right side, they can write the people who will see and maybe be changed by their (the kids') courage.**

Then lead kids in prayer. At the appropriate time, as indicated in the scripted prayer below, let kids go around the circle and fill in the name of one person on their list who may be changed by seeing their courage.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER:** "When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego showed courage and did the right thing, the king was changed—it even changed the way he thought about God—and many other people may have been changed. **[Apply] Your courage to do the right thing can have a remarkable effect on others.** Let's pray and ask God to use our courage to make a difference in other people's lives.

"Dear God, we want to have courage not just because it's what You want for us, but because You may use our courage to change people like [kids each insert name of one person on list]. Help us to remember that You are with us when we do the right thing, and to use that knowledge as a reason to choose courage. Amen."