

LESSON 14
"COURAGE"
(page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

Esther 4:1-14; 5-8 (pages 516-518)

CHARACTER WORD

Courage - Standing up for what I believe in; bravery

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

With God's help, I can have courage to stand up for what is right.

MEMORY LINK

Proverbs 3:5a

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."

(KBC Study Bible, page 666)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Option 1: Balls

Option 2: Slips of paper, marker

BIBLE CONNECTION

3 large pieces of paper

SURF TEAM TIME

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: Paper

Option 2: Beach balls

Queen Esther Saves Her People

WHAT'S THE POINT?

While the book of Esther does not refer to God directly, His presence and protection is clearly implied. God placed Esther in the right place at the right time to save her people from destruction. But it wasn't easy. Esther was afraid. She knew she needed God's help to give her courage to risk death and approach the king. Her 3 days of prayer and fasting revealed her need for God's help and her trust in God's protection. She drew courage not from herself but from the one true God.

So where does your courage come from? In what do you place your trust? Often people draw courage from their own abilities, the money they have in the bank, their connections or their popularity. It's easy to fall back on our own power rather than looking to God for courage. That's being independently courageous. But God wants us to be dependently courageous. That means looking to Him as the source of courage and trusting Him with the outcome no matter what.

GET CONNECTED

Building relationships in surf teams; introducing today's lesson



Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the students in your surf team and to introduce today's lesson.

- Today's character word is courage. What does courage mean to you?
- How would you describe a person who has courage?
- Can you give an example of how you may have shown courage lately?
- Remind them that the greatest courage comes from trusting God.



Guide students to locate and mark today's Bible Connection and Memory Link in their Bibles, if they brought one, so they can find the pages quickly as directed in the session.

WORSHIP TIME

Pointing students' hearts toward God



You can't give what you don't have. If you want students to become worshippers of God, then you must be a great participator in worship. Being a worship leader isn't about putting on a show in front of others. Throughout your week, set aside time to praise God when no one else is watching. What you receive from God when worshipping alone will reflect outwardly when you lead your students in worship.

Consider these song choices: "Make Me Brave", by Bethel Music for Kids; "Brave", by Saddleback Kids; "Trust In the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6), by Seeds Family Worship

MEMORY LINK

2 Minutes – Teaching the Bible verse to students
8 Minutes – Activity to help them memorize the verse



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Proverbs 3:5a

*“Trust in the Lord with
all your heart.”*

(KBC Study Bible, page 666)

No supplies needed

Focus on the Bible

Hold your Bible high up in the air and ask students to do the same if they have one with them. Encourage them to bring their Bibles to club each week.

Focus on today's Memory Link

Guide the students to open their Bibles in the middle to find Proverbs (KBC Study Bible, page 666). Explain that Proverbs is located after Psalms in the Old Testament, which is the longest book in the Bible and often in the very center of the Bible. Explain that proverbs are short, wise sayings. Tell the students that many proverbs recorded in the book of Proverbs were written by King Solomon, the wisest person who ever lived.

Our Memory Link today is one of those wise sayings and it is found in Proverbs, chapter 3, verse 5. Today we are going to learn the first part that says, “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart.” Our Bible doesn’t say trust in the Lord sometimes or just on Christmas Day or even on just your birthday. We need to trust the Lord every day, all the time, and with ALL of our hearts. When we trust in Him, He gives us courage in everything we do!

I want to challenge you to learn all of verse 5 and verse 6 this week at home with your families for more words of wisdom! Let's say our verse together.

Option 1 - SING IT OUT

1 beach ball for each surf team

Prepare: Explain that students will use the familiar melody of the song “Mary Had a Little Lamb” but substitute the words of today's Memory Link. Example: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, all your heart, all your heart. Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5a.”

Guide each surf team to sit in a separate circle. Give a beach ball to one student in each surf team. Explain that surf teams will compete against each other. When the Memory Link Leader gives the signal to start, students will pass the ball around the surf team while singing the Memory Link to the tune “Mary Had a Little Lamb” as many times as they can before time is called. The surf team who repeats the song the most times during play wins. Play several rounds as time permits.

Option 2 - TRICKY TEACHER

Strips of paper, marker

Prepare: Write each action listed below on a slip of paper.

Guide the students to take turns selecting one slip of paper. They must say the verse in the way that is explained on the paper or you can add your own. Each student takes a turn while looking at the verse and a second turn while reciting the verse from memory. (This can also be done in whole group.)

- In fast forward while jogging in place
- In a whisper while tiptoeing
- In shouting while marching
- In slow motion while jogging in place
- In a normal voice while walking backward

Teaching Tip

You share your Beach Club space with the public school. Please leave it better than you found it. Strengthening the relationship between partnering church and school is a great thing!

BIBLE CONNECTION



Teaching today's character word through gospel-centered Bible story

LESSON 14 "COURAGE"

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3 large pieces of paper with A, B, C written on them (1 letter per paper)

Set the Stage

Today's character word is courage. What kind of jobs take a lot of courage? (policeman, firefighter, astronaut, soldier) People with jobs that help people to the point of risking their own lives require courage. But jobs aren't where courage comes from. Courage comes from trusting God to help you do the right thing. When you were listing jobs that require courage, none of you mentioned a beauty queen. Today's story is about a woman who won a beauty contest and became Queen of Persia. You'll see how she trusted God and had the courage to stand up for what was right.

Tell the Story

The King of Persia wanted to marry the most beautiful woman in his kingdom, so he had a beauty contest and chose a very beautiful woman named Esther. She became queen. The king did not like Jewish people who believed in God so much so that many people were often killed for their beliefs. His new bride, Esther, was Jewish and so she had to keep the fact that she was Jewish a secret from the king.

One of the king's advisors named Haman hated the Jews so much that he devised a plan, an evil scheme, that stated on a certain day, all the Jews living in Persia would be put to death. Little did he know, that also meant Esther the Queen!

When Esther's cousin Mordecai, found out about Haman's plan, he pleaded with Esther to talk to the king. But she was afraid to because, you see, anyone who entered the king's inner court without first being summoned, or requested, could be killed immediately unless the king held out his golden scepter. So Esther asked Mordecai to tell the Jewish people to fast (not eat) for three days. Now most of the time when people were asked to fast, they were also asked to commit that time to God in prayer. Esther told Mordecai she and her servants would do the same.

The Bible tells us that after the third day of fasting, Esther had the courage to go to the king, and if she died, then so be it. Wow. Esther was willing to die to save her people. So, Esther got up, put on her royal robes, and went to the inner court and courageously stood before the king. Thankfully, he showed her favor and held out his golden scepter to her. Whew! Humbly, she went and touched it. Then the king asked her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you – up to half the kingdom!" God had answered their prayer and allowed her favor before the king.

Esther answered the king and presented her request. She invited the king and Haman to a grand banquet. Haman was so happy! After all, he was the only one invited to join them. But, as he left, he saw Mordecai standing at the gate, and when Mordecai did not stand or acknowledge Haman, this made him furious! Haman just walked away. When he got home, he told his wife all about how great he was and that he was the only one invited by Esther to attend a special banquet. Then he told his wife that all that didn't matter because all he wanted was to no longer see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

As You Prepare

Read through Esther 4 – 8 for background, then tell the story in your own words. Write each on a sheet of paper - A, B, C.

Teaching Tip

Bring your Bible! The students need to realize the importance of bringing their Bibles to Beach Club. That importance is shown by the amount of time you have them hands on using it! If you don't ever require its use in club, or use it yourself, the students won't either. Point out everyone who remembers to bring their Bibles. Encourage them to find and read Bible verses for themselves. Involve the Bible in every part of Beach Club and share with those who may have forgotten a Bible. Does it take more time? Yes, but it is time well spent for the advancement of young people knowing God's word for themselves.

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Well, on the second day of the banquet, Esther finally had the courage to confess to the king that she was a Jew and told him how Haman had tricked him into signing the decree to kill all the Jews living there in Persia. This made the king very angry at Haman and he ordered Haman to be killed. Then the king issued a new decree so that the Jewish people would not be killed. God gave Esther courage and used her to save her people.

Application

Would you have the courage to stand up for Jesus and for what is right like Esther did? It takes courage to say, "I'm not going to do that. I'm going to do things God's way." Guide the students to stand up and shout together "With God's help, I can have courage to stand up for what is right!"

Gospel Connection

Just like God gave Esther courage to save her people from destruction, God gave Jesus the courage to endure the suffering of the cross in order to save people from sin. In taking on sin, Jesus showed the greatest courage of all. When He rose from the dead, He conquered sin and made it possible for you to receive forgiveness from sin and have a relationship with God today and forever.

Pray with students, asking God to give them courage in all that they say and do.

Invite students wanting to know more about praying to ask Jesus to be their Forever Friend to move to the designated counseling area to meet with a leader one on one. Be sure to have all the decision supplies available.

Gospel Tip

You may need to explain that the words "Israelites," and "Jews" are all the same people. They are the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Of all the people in the world, God selected them to be His special people, holy and set apart. In the book of Esther, the nation is primarily identified as "the Jews."

Gospel Tip

When you have a long, detailed Bible story, like today's story from Esther, do your best to streamline the storytelling so you still have plenty of time to share and discuss the gospel. Avoid tacking on the plan of salvation as a rushed afterthought. Always connect the gospel to the story or the character word, creating a natural flow from one to the other. Manage your time in Bible Connection so both the Bible story and the gospel presentation are given adequate attention.

SURF TEAM TIME

Connecting with students in small groups;
applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word



LESSON 14 "COURAGE"

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Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, Index cards, pens, highlighters

Today's Bible Lesson

- Before you begin, ask if there are any students who would like to talk with the Bible Connection Leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their Forever Friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.
- *What questions do you have about today's story?*
- *What did Esther do before approaching the king? (fasted for 3 days) How did that show she depended on God for courage?*
- *What opportunities do you have to stand up and do the right thing?*
- *Where can you get the courage to stand up and do the right thing?*
- *How was Jesus courageous at the cross?*

Use the Bible

Give each student a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word. Guide them to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles and highlight today's Memory Link if they have not already done so.

Hang 10 Pages

Give each student a Hang 10 Page. Challenge them to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage them to bring back their Hang 10 pages next week.

One of the things your Hang 10 encourages you to do this week is to write down all the places you go. Can you name a few now? (home, school, park, store, etc.) How can you show courage in each of these places?

Pray

Encourage students to write prayer requests on index cards. Lead them in prayer. Take the cards home and pray for these requests during the week.

Thank You, God, for being our source of courage. We praise You for helping us to stand up and do the right thing. Help us be courageous because of You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Teaching Tip

One of the best ways to get to know your students is to ask for prayer requests. Each week, provide index cards and pencils so they can write down requests, name optional. You will get more insight into what is going on in their lives since Beach Club time often doesn't leave much room for deeper discussions. Keep the prayer request cards in your Bible for easy access during your personal prayer time or share them with Lifeguards from your church.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

Playing a game to review today's Bible Connection and Character Word



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Option 1 - THE KING'S DECREE

Long piece of paper made into a scroll with review questions written on it

Form two teams. Explain that you will pretend to be king and that you will announce questions from your decree, alternating between the two teams. Ask the first student a review question. If they answer correctly, they will earn a point for their team. If they don't know the answer, the other team may attempt to answer. The team with the most points at the end of play wins.

Option 2 - UP FOR GRABS

Beach ball

Guide all the students to sit in a large circle. Number off students 1-8. Tell them to remember their numbers. Place the beach ball in the center of the circle. The review game leader will call out a number 1-8. Everyone in the circle with that number will race to the center of the circle to get the beach ball. The one who gets the ball first gets to answer a review question. Continue until all questions are answered.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. *What is today's character word? (courage)*
2. *What does courage mean? (standing up for what I believe in; bravery)*
3. *Recite today's Memory Link. ("Trust in the LORD with all your heart." Proverbs 3:5a)*
4. *How did Esther become queen? (She won a beauty contest.)*
5. *How were Mordecai and Esther related? (They were cousins.)*
6. *Who conspired against the Jews and deceived the king to decree they would be killed? (Haman)*
7. *What did Esther ask Mordecai and all the people to do before she approached the king? (they fasted for 3 days)*
8. *How did Esther save her people? (She courageously told the king how Haman deceived him and asked the king for mercy.)*
9. *What happened when Esther told the king what Haman had done? (He ordered Haman to be killed.)*
10. *Share a way you can have courage and stand up for God at your school. (Answers will vary.)*

Teaching Tip

Sometimes it is fun to involve your Surf Team Leaders in the game. Consider calling on them in your game today to allow students to cheer for their leaders or invite leaders to demonstrate how a game is played. They like to see their leaders be silly and have fun, so be sure to include adults in the review game action. Students will love it... and leaders may not admit it, but they will love it too!



***“Trust in
the Lord with
all your heart.”***

Proverbs 3:5a

KBC Study Bible, page 666