



WEEK THREE – OCTOBER 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Rahab Helps the Spies* | Joshua 2 (suppt. Joshua 6:22-25)

Bottom Line: *God can give you courage to help someone in need*

Memory Verse: “It is for freedom Christ has set you free.” – Galatians 5:1 (NIRV)

Insight: *God’s Spirit/Transformation – God’s Spirit is transforming my unique and imperfect life into the character of Jesus*

Application: *Courage – When God helps you to be brave enough to do hard things.*

Series Overview: God has given each of us a key role to play in His story—but that doesn’t mean the journey will be easy. As we continue to follow the journey of God’s people, we discover that Moses wasn’t ready for his leading role; that Joshua and Caleb had to go against the flow; that Rahab put everything on the line for the sake of a God worshiped by her enemies; and that Ruth set aside the safety of home to forge into the unknown. God’s people were on the move, but every new step was an act of courage. While the kids in your ministry aren’t facing down an Egyptian ruler or setting off for new lands, they still need courage to do difficult things every single day. From speaking up in class to starting a conversation with a new kid to facing a doctor visit, kids need the help of God’s Holy Spirit. You can remind them that feeling scared doesn’t mean they can’t be brave. In fact, courage means trusting God to help you be brave. When kids choose to rely on God’s help to do something hard, even when they’re afraid, others can see God at work.

8:45 - 9:05 | 10:45 – 11:05 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Connection Centers

Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders

What You Need: Activity Bins + Coloring Sheets (find on your shelves in space)

What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
 - **Before kids arrive, pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the people in their lives who have helped them. Recall a time when someone showed up for you when you needed it most. Thank God for placing people in your life to help you. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom to know when and how to step in for others. Ask God to help the preteens understand that they don't have to be afraid to help others because He is always with them. Pray that they would understand that helping isn't about getting recognition but it's about showing God's love. Pray that the Holy Spirit would help them become more aware when someone is in need and have the courage to step up and take action!**
- *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
 - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
 - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
 - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
 - Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your small group space
 - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these :

- *“You get to pick one tool to carve a pumpkin: a spoon, a tiny saw, or a giant potato peeler. Which one do you choose and what kind of jack-o’-lantern face will you make with it?”*
- *“Describe your perfect fall afternoon. What food are you eating, who are you with, and what are you doing?”*
- *“You are in charge of planning the best fall festival ever. What is one super-unique game or food booth you would make sure to include?”*
- *“Would you rather have to rake a giant pile of leaves every day for a month, or be forced to eat only pumpkin-flavored food for a whole week?”*
- *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*
 - *Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf*
 - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
 - Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

OPENING ACTIVITY

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Divide the kids into groups of two—it’s okay if there’s a group of three.
- Encourage them to create a “secret handshake.”
- Suggest some of the following movements to include:
 - High five

- Fist bump
- Elbow tap
- Spin
- Finger wiggle
- Clap behind the back
- Play some upbeat music in the background to keep the energy high!
- Gather the group together to discuss.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- This activity can be done sitting down or standing up. Have the kids participate in whatever way works best for the group.
- Some kids might not enjoy the physical aspect of a handshake. Kids can create no-contact handshakes using fun movements like waves, snaps, or facial expressions.

What You Say:

“It was so fun watching you all come up with ‘secret handshakes!’ Speaking of secrets, *[Transition]* in today’s true story from the Bible, we’ll discover a woman named Rahab who took a huge risk to hide some spies from God’s family and keep them a secret. God helped her make a brave choice to help others! Let’s go find out what happened!”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Nearly forty years later, it was at last time for God’s people, now led by Joshua, to enter the Promised Land. But the strong-walled city of Jericho guarded the entrance to the new land. So Joshua sent two spies into the city, where they met a woman named Rahab. Instead of reporting the men, she risked everything to hide them from danger. Because of this, Rahab and her family were saved when God’s people conquered Jericho.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: Index cards, pencils, and a timer

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of three. It's okay if there's a group of two.
- Give each group six index cards and one pencil.
- Explain how to play:
 - “We’re going to look for real ways to live for God by being brave and helping others.”
 - “I’m going to read a scenario where someone needs help. You’ll have 60 seconds to come up with a way to help, and one of you will draw it with your eyes closed!”
- After reading each scenario (from the “Help Scenarios” listed below), start the timer for 60 seconds. The groups must quickly discuss it and choose one person to draw their response with their eyes closed.
- Before reading the next scenario, invite groups to share their solutions and drawings!
 - *NOTE: This game is fun, fast, and not a drawing contest. Have fun with it and make sure there isn't any pressure on how kids draw!*
- Continue until all the scenarios have been drawn.
 - *[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of a time God gave you the courage to help someone. Maybe it was a time you spoke up for someone who was hurting. Or maybe you included someone new.)*
- Explain to the kids that they don't have to be brave alone. God is always with them. And when someone chooses to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to help them! The Holy Spirit will nudge them throughout the day,

sharing ways to be kind like He is, and then He'll give them the strength and courage to do it!

- Encourage kids to pray to God and ask Him to help them be brave and show love to someone who needs help.

o Help Scenarios:

- A kid in your class is getting picked on at recess by another group of kids.
- You hear a rumor being shared about someone, and you know it's not true.
- A new kid at church or school doesn't know anyone and sits by themselves.
- You notice your teacher seems overwhelmed.
- Someone in your friend group gets left out of a game.
- Your sibling (or cousin) is really scared about something.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Offer verbal examples for kids to imagine what to draw.
- Allow kids to participate verbally.
- Draw visual examples and allow kids to copy or point to the example they choose.

VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Bibles, “Verse Letters” Activity Page, straws, bowls, and floor tape

What You Do:

- Before you begin, fill each bowl with one set of cards from the “Verse Letters” Activity Page.
- Divide the kids into three teams.

- Give each team a Bible.
- Lead each team to find Psalm 56:3 using the Bible Navigation tips.
 - ***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:*** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. Since the book of Psalms is in the Old Testament, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book of Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Give every kid one straw.
- Tape off a start line for each team.
- Instruct each team to line up behind their team's start line.
- Place the bowls several feet away from the starting line, one bowl across from each team.
- Explain and demonstrate how to play:
 - “Are you ready for a challenge? One at a time, you'll race down to your team's bowl and use your straw to suck up one letter, bring it back to your team, and then the next person goes. Once all the letters are collected, your team is to work together to put them in the order of Psalm 56:3. First team to spell the verse correctly wins!”
- *NOTE: Encourage kids to use their Bibles to reference the verse.*
- Continue playing until both teams have successfully placed the verse letters in order.
- **Ask:**
 - What words stick out to you in Psalm 56:3?
 - How could remembering this verse help you this week?
- *Optional: Introduce kids to the following Scripture references.*
 - *Joshua 1:9—Remind kids that God commands us to be brave and strong, because He is always with us!*
 - *Philippians 4:6-7—Prayer can help them give their fears to God. God can replace their worry with **peace** and help them be brave!*

- *2 Timothy 1:7—Share with kids that fear is not from God, courage is!*
- *John 14:27—Encourage them that Jesus speaks peace directly to our fear. The peace Jesus gives us is different than what the world gives*

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Have some kids to be the “verse builders” at the start line while other kids retrieve letters.

PRAYER TIME

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Invite kids to form groups of two or three.
- Explain that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything.
- Encourage the kids to ask each other:
 - Who can you be brave and help this week?
 - How can I pray for you?
- Give the kids a few moments to pray for each other.
 - *NOTE: You can let them choose to pray silently or out loud.*
- Close your group in prayer.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- If kids prefer not to pray out loud, invite them to whisper or pray silently.