



Mad Props

Moses: The Burning Bush

BIG IDEA: God is always with me, so I can have the courage to do what He asks.

BIBLE BASIS: Exodus 3:1–7:13

KEY VERSE: “Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be terrified. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.”
Joshua 1:9 (NirV)

★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

“MAD PROPS” COMMUNITY BUILDER

Say: It’s so good to see you all again! Welcome to the 1st week of “Mad Props.” Today, we’re going to talk about having courage in scary situations, but first, I want to play a quick game with you.

Directions: Hold up a tennis ball for the kids to see. Tell the kids to imagine all of the things that the ball could be other than a ball. To get them started, hold the ball over one eye and tell the kids it’s a giant green eyeball. Have the kids take turns holding the tennis ball and showing everyone what else it could be. Challenge the group to come up with as many ideas as possible. When finished, ask the kids the following questions:

Question: Who is the most courageous person you know? What makes him or her so courageous?

Question: What is the most courageous thing you’ve ever done?

ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

If you have additional time before Large Group begins, play “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down.” Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

★ LARGE GROUP LESSON



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

THE BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

For Younger Kids:

1. Why do you think Moses was afraid to talk to Pharaoh?
2. If you were Moses and God promised to be with you, do you think you would have had the courage to confront Pharaoh? Why or why not?

For Older Kids:

1. What do you think this story teaches us about God?
2. If you were Moses and God promised to be with you, do you think you would have had the courage to confront Pharaoh? Why or why not?

A PICTURE OF COURAGE (Application Activity)

Say: In today's story, God asked Moses to do something really hard and scary, but Moses lacked the courage to do it. Right now we're going to do an activity that will help us think about some of the really hard things that God wants us to do, and then we're going to talk about why we can have the courage to do those things.

Directions: Give every child in your group one piece of paper. Place the box of markers or crayons in the middle of the group. Tell the kids to think of something difficult that God might want them to do. It could be something like standing up to a friend who wants them to do something they know is wrong. Ask them not to tell anyone else in the group what they're thinking of just yet. Once they have something in mind, tell them to draw a picture of it. When they've had enough time to finish their drawings, choose one child to go first. Have her show her drawing to the rest of the kids who will then try to determine what God wants her to do. After everyone has registered a guess, have the child who drew the picture say what the answer is and talk about why that's difficult for her. Afterwards, ask the group what they could say or do to give them the courage to follow God in that situation. Repeat the above instructions until everyone has had a chance to share their drawing.

Say: Imagine you were asked to play in a soccer tournament at your school. You and some other kids from your class would have to compete against a bunch of other teams. There's just one catch. All of the other teams are made up of kids who are 2 and 3 years older than you. Would you be nervous? Do you think you could win the tournament? Why or why not?

Now imagine that the world's best soccer player was going to fly in to be on your team. Would that change how you feel? Would that give you any more courage?

That's kind of how it is with God. Sometimes God asks us to do some things that can make us nervous and take a lot of courage. We just need to remember that God is always with us. Our all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving God can help us do what He asks.



BIBLE VERSE TIC-TAC-TOE (Bible Memorization Activity)

Set up: Using tape, create a tic-tac-toe board on the floor in the middle of the group. The squares should be large enough to fit an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper.

Directions: Place the Bible verse sign in the middle of the group and read it carefully with your kids several times so they can begin to memorize it. When everyone is ready, turn the sign over so they can no longer read it. Today's Bible verse says:

“Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be terrified. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NirV)

Divide your group into two teams. Give one team the “X” papers and the other team the “O” papers. Decide which team will go first. Choose one kid from that team to recite the verse. If she does so successfully, allow her to place her team's letter on any open square. If she is unable to recite the verse, her team may not place their letter on the board. Next, give the other team a turn. Continue playing until one team has filled three spaces in a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) with their letters or until every space on the board has been filled. If there are still kids who haven't had a turn, play another round.

Question: Now that you have that verse memorized, can you tell me what it means to you?

Question: If God is all-powerful and He promises to be with us wherever we go, why do you think we still get scared sometimes when we're trying to do the right thing?

PRAYER CIRCLE (Group Prayer Activity)

Directions: Share prayer requests and encourage kids to pray one sentence prayers for the kid on their right.