



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus  
Winter Year 3, Lesson 43

# God Gives Us Courage to Stand Up and Protect Others

**Primary Scripture:** Ephesians 6:10, 11 The Bible event of Esther

**Key Verse:** Ephesians 6:10, "Finally, receive your power from the Lord and from his mighty strength."

## How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids pick on kids. It seems inevitable in classrooms, on playgrounds, and in families. Human nature tempts us to find someone weaker or smaller so that we might bolster our own self-importance by degrading or intimidating another. As Christians, we need to not only refrain from such activities, but we need to learn to take a stand for others who need an advocate. This truly is a courageous stand.

## How does Jesus fill this need?

**Jesus for us:** As he went to the cross for us, Jesus took a stand against the devil's grip in our lives and freed us.

**Jesus in us:** Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, Jesus gives us power to be courageous and to take a stand to help others.

**Jesus through us:** What a difference we can make as we express the love given to us through Christ to others who need a special friend to stand up for them.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies needed: clip from The Wizard of Oz, Warner Studios (original distribution 1939: DVD release 2004, ASIN B00000JS62. Show the cowardly lion singing about courage.*

Show the video clip from *The Wizard of Oz* and introduce the theme.

**What is courage? How would you define it?**

Take one or two answers.

**God wants to give us courage so that we might protect and help others. He does this by giving us Jesus, who was courageous enough to give his life for us. Jesus lives with us as a constant companion so that we can be courageous like him in helping others.**

### Songs of Worship:

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

## The Power of the Cross:

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

The confession can deal with specific ways in which we have failed to take a stand for others or picked on others ourselves.

Pray a prayer of confession and forgiveness something like the following:

**Dear God, sometimes we are not very courageous and do not stand up for others who are in need or who are picked on. Please give us your changing power and help us to be courageous to not follow along with the crowd. Please forgive us when we pick on others.**

**We thank you that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can receive forgiveness for the wrongs we have done toward others and you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## Song of Response:

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

Your choice of music.

## Offering:

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Remind the children about your current mission project and how you are helping others in need.



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

*Supplies needed: crosses cut out of 8 ½" x 11" paper (enough for every other child)*

### **"Made You Blink"**

The learning game will involve children partnering up for a brief experiment in taking a stand. You may demonstrate or have a pair of kids demonstrate first.

Have kids pair up and have one of each pair stand flat against the wall with her hands at their side. Her job is to not flinch or blink. Her partner will face her standing 1-2 feet away with arms extended and palms facing the partner. She will pretend to fall towards her partner against the wall. The palms of her hands would seemingly land on her partner's face. At the last second, the child falling will separate her hands so that they land on the wall on each side of the partner's head.

*The game might sound a bit aggressive, but it is a simple playground game often played to test whether a child can keep from blinking. Of course, it is virtually impossible to not blink in undergoing this test. It is an example of the difficulty in taking a stand against the enemy's schemes that would hurt others or us.*

Have kids switch places and do it again. Then say:

**We need help to keep from blinking. There is one tool that can help us.**

Hand each pair a paper cross. The child against the wall should place the cross over his eyes. Now have his partner fall again. As the child against the wall focuses on the cross, the other child's hands are no longer intimidating.

**This is an example of how hard it can be for us to take a stand for someone else against mean people or scary circumstances. When we fix our eyes on Jesus, it helps us make a courageous stand without flinching. We can stand up for others without any fear, because our eyes are on Jesus who stood up for us without flinching.**

## **Bible Presentation:**

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

Have a child read Ephesians 6:10-11:

***“Finally, receive your power from the Lord and from his mighty strength. Put on all the armor that God supplies. In this way you can take a stand against the devil’s strategies.”***

Emphasize that having received God’s mighty power in our lives, we can take our stand against the devil’s schemes. One of the devil’s greatest schemes is to hurt others through kids picking on one another.

## **Application:**

### **Application 1:**

Show the video titled *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Esther*, from Nest Family Entertainment.

### **Application 2:**

*Supplies: a “bravery box”—with an American flag, a police badge, military insignia, and a cross inside*

Use the “bravery box” to continue talking about those people that show courage in standing up for others. In the box will be an American flag, a police badge, a military insignia, and a cross.

As the objects are drawn from the box, have the children describe how these objects represent people who are brave and serve others, most of whom they do not even know. These people have risked their lives so that others might be protected, just like Esther.

The final object to be drawn from the box should be the cross. The cross is the ultimate symbol of someone who stood up to help others. Jesus gave his life for us.

**How can we be like Jesus and these other brave people this week?  
Think about situations at school or at home in which you can make a stand to help protect others.**



# Witness

## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

Encourage kids to share experiences of how they stood up for other kids who were being picked on.

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

## Blessing:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

## Attention Grabber:

- the video clip from *The Wizard of Oz*, Warner Studios, original distribution 1939; DVD release 2004, ASIN B00000JS62 (Rent at your local video store or order from [http://www.amazon.com/Wizard-Oz-Two-Disc-Special/dp/B000ADS63K/sr=1-1/qid=1159889209/ref=pd\\_bbs\\_1/104-7648977-6137510?ie=UTF8&s=dvd](http://www.amazon.com/Wizard-Oz-Two-Disc-Special/dp/B000ADS63K/sr=1-1/qid=1159889209/ref=pd_bbs_1/104-7648977-6137510?ie=UTF8&s=dvd)) Show the cowardly lion singing about courage.

## Learning Game:

- crosses cut out of 8 ½" x 11" paper (enough for every other child)

## Application 1:

- the video titled *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Esther*, from Nest Family Entertainment ([http://www.nestfamily.com/childrens-bible-stories/store/product\\_detail.asp?ProductID=ESD&ProductIDF=&deptid=1&start=21&page\\_rec=20](http://www.nestfamily.com/childrens-bible-stories/store/product_detail.asp?ProductID=ESD&ProductIDF=&deptid=1&start=21&page_rec=20))

## Application 2:

- a “bravery box”—in the box will be an American flag, a police badge, military insignia, and a cross.

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