

Being Brave for God

Preschool/K/1st

Introduction Question

Teacher shares about a time he/she was brave. Examples: moving, making new friends, trying new food, starting a new job, spending the night away from family, riding a bike. Ask students to share about a time they were brave.

Guiding Verse

Psalm 56:3. When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. Discuss the meaning of the verse.

Bible Story

Read or summarize about Moses parting the Red Sea from your favorite children's picture or storybook Bible, Exodus 14. Focus on Exodus 14:22 *"The people of Israel went through the sea on dry ground. There was a wall of water on their right side and on their left."*

Discussion Questions

What did God ask Moses to do?

What do you think Moses was afraid of? What could happen to Moses and the people he was leading?

What should we do when we have to be brave and face something scary?

Introduce Gladys

Just like Moses, we must to be brave for God. Courage to do brave things comes from God.

Hold up Gutsy Girls Book One and point to Gladys.

Script: This is Gladys Aylward. Gladys was a real person who was very brave for God. Gladys went to China to tell people about Jesus. Gladys had to leave her family, take a boat, ride on a train, go over mountains, and hike very far in order to get to China. Gladys knew she couldn't do all of this on her own, and she knew she would have to rely on God to help her. This was very brave.

Show globe. Starting point England, finishing point China.

Script: In China, there was a war and many people were fighting. It was very dangerous for children. Gladys walked 100 children a long, long distance away from the danger and to safety. Gladys faced many problems, and she had to be brave. The children's feet hurt, they were hungry, they were tired, they wanted to go home, but Gladys and the children found strength in God and crossed a very fast river to safety.

Discussion Questions

Why was Gladys afraid of taking the children across the river?

One of the children told Gladys she had to be brave like someone in the Bible. Who in the Bible had to be brave when crossing a river?

What did Gladys and the children do to help them be brave?

Is praying something we can do when we are scared?

Where can we pray?

End in Prayer

Dear God,

Please help us to be brave for you. Give us courage and help us to remember to pray when we feel scared. In Jesus' name, Amen

Optional Extension Activities

- Color the cover of *Gutsy Girls*. Circle the name of the author and illustrator. Draw a square around Gladys.
- Act out and memorize Exodus 14:22 by creating motions (walking, pointing to the ground, waving arms to the left and to the right).
- Revisit times students were brave. Have students draw a picture of a time when he/she was brave.