

# Being Brave for God

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>

## Introduction Question

Who are people we consider brave (firemen, police, soldiers, leaders, athletes)? Who are people from the Bible who felt weak, but God called on them to be brave (Mary, Peter, David)?

## 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 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?

What are synonyms or other words that mean the same thing as brave? Courageous, daring, heroic, gutsy.

## Introduce Gladys

We can learn a great deal from Moses, and we can also learn from other people who have been brave for God. When God calls us to do difficult things, He guides us in our journey.

*Hold up Gutsy Girls Book One and point to Gladys.*

Script: This is Gladys Aylward. Gladys was a real-life missionary who was very brave for God. Although this book is full of illustrations and not actual photos, Gladys Aylward was a real person. This picture book calls Gladys' bravery "gutsy." 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: After Gladys had spent several years in China, war broke out. It was very dangerous for everyone, but especially for children. During the war, Gladys walked 100 children a long way away from the danger and to safety. Gladys faced many problems, and she had to be brave.

### Discussion Questions

- Starting from the beginning of the book, let's discuss all of the situations in which Gladys needed to rely on God.
- How did Gladys show she trusted God?
- What do you do when you are feeling overwhelmed and fearful?
- Are there any situations in which people today might show bravery for God? (Telling others about Him, inviting people to church, missions)

### 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

- **Personal narrative.** Write about a time you didn't feel brave and you relied on strength for God.
- **Get creative.** Gladys took two small suitcases with her when she traveled to China. Imagine you are traveling to China. Draw and label five to eight items you would take with you on your trip.
- **Predict and act out.** Create a class list containing the following vocabulary words from *Gutsy Girls: Trans-Siberian Railroad*, foot binding, exhaustion, destination, extraordinary, dodged, boarded, and demanded. As a class, on an over-sized sheet of paper, write down predicted meanings of the words. Then write down the actual meanings. Create actions to help students remember the meaning of each word.