



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

COURAGE WEEK 1 COURAGE FACES FEAR

Small Group Welcome

1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: **Would you rather explore a cave full of snakes or spiders?**

Small Group Activity

You'll Need

- Paper crown (1 per child)
- Tape (1 roll per group)
- Markers (1 set per group)

To Do

Say: Queen Esther was brave. She didn't let being afraid stop her. What are some brave things she did?

- *She stood up for her people by going to the king—without permission—even though she knew she could be killed.*
- *She told Haman that he was wrong for plotting to kill her people—right to his face.*

1. **Give** each kid a paper crown.

Say: These crowns can remind you to depend on God to have courage like Queen Esther when you need to.

2. Kids **write** today's verse (*printed on back*) on their crown. **Help** beginning writers as needed.
3. **Tape** crowns together for kids to wear.
4. **If time allows**, kids decorate the crowns.

Choose questions to ask while kids play.

1. **Talk about a time you showed courage.** *Answers will vary.*
2. **Talk about a time something made you afraid and you had to be brave.** *Answers will vary.*

Small Group Discussion

Say the point and Bible verse together.

God gives me courage to face fear.

Psalm 56:3 NIV

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

1. **Who can we always put our trust in when we're afraid?** *God*

Choose a few review questions.

1. **Does courage mean you're never afraid?** *No*
2. **What does courage mean?** *Facing fear with God's power*
3. **In the Bible, Queen Esther risked her life by talking to the king. How do you think she got the courage to do that?** *Answers will vary.*
4. **How do you think feeling afraid helps us grow courage?** *Answers will vary.*
5. **How do you think trusting God helps when we're afraid?** *Answers will vary.*
6. **Talk about a time feeling afraid kept you from doing what you needed to do.** *Answers will vary.*

Choose an action step question.

1. **How can you show courage this week?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **If you're feeling afraid, what can you do to get the courage to do what you need to do?** *Ask God for it, etc.*

Pray together.

1. **Ask** kids to share things they'd like to pray about.
2. **Write down** their prayer requests.
3. **Pray** together over the prayer requests.

Not sure what to pray? Pray this: Dear God, Thank You for giving us the courage to do what we need to do, even if we feel afraid. In Jesus' name, amen.

Check Out

Stay in small groups until kids are checked out.

1. **Talk about** earning points by returning the Challenge Card, and **continue decorating** crowns.
2. When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their family.
3. **Encourage** families to do the Challenge Card together.



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

COURAGE WEEK 2 COURAGE DOES WHAT'S RIGHT

Small Group Welcome

1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: **Who's the bravest person you know?**

Small Group Activity

You'll Need

- Goliath bowling pin (1 per group)
- Paper (1 sheet per child)

To Do

Ask: It was scary for David to fight Goliath, but he knew God was with him, so he did it. Think of something you know you need to do, but you're worried, nervous, or afraid to do it.

1. **Line up** kids about 4 feet away from you.
2. **Give** each kid a sheet of paper, and **place** Goliath next to you.

Say: Now, we're going to make some stones, and we're going to fight the things you thought of!

3. Kids **crumple** paper into a ball.
4. One by one, kids **say** the thing they thought of and **toss** their paper stone at Goliath to knock him down. *Let them toss again if they miss the first time.*
5. **Continue** until all kids have had a turn.
6. **If time allows, repeat** game with kids **sharing** different things they need God's courage to do.

Choose questions to ask after experiment.

1. **What do you think helped David stand up to a giant?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **What do you think will help you do the things you're afraid to do?** *Answers will vary.*

Small Group Discussion

Say the point and Bible verse together.

God gives me courage to do what's right.

1 Corinthians 16:13 NLT

Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.

1. How will this Bible verse help you when you're afraid to do what's right? *Answers will vary.*

Choose a few review questions.

1. **When other people won't do the right thing, how does it make you feel?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **What do you think keeps people from standing up for what's right?** *Answers will vary.*
3. **In the Bible, what showed David's courage the most: being tough and strong, or doing what was right?** *Doing what was right.*
4. **In the Bible, what did David do that everyone else was too afraid to do?** *He fought Goliath.*
5. **Talk about a time people were doing the wrong thing and you needed courage to do the right thing.** *Answers will vary.*

Choose an action step question.

1. **What do you need to stand up for this week?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **What do you think will give you the courage to do what's right, even when no one else is doing it?** *Answers will vary.*

Pray together.

1. **Ask** kids to share things they'd like to pray about.
2. **Write down** their prayer requests.
3. **Pray** together over the prayer requests.

Not sure what to pray? Pray this: God, Thank You for filling us with your courage to do the right thing even when no one else is. In Jesus' name, amen.

Check Out

Stay in small groups until kids are checked out.

1. **Talk about** earning points by returning the Challenge Card, and **play** the game again.
2. When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their family.
3. **Encourage** families to do the Challenge Card together.

Please save questions on back for Small Group Discussion.



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

COURAGE WEEK 3 COURAGE PRAYS

Small Group Welcome

1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: **What do you like to do during a rainstorm?**

Small Group Activity

You'll Need

- Raven toy (1 per group)

To Do

Say: Elijah was a godly person who prayed powerful prayers! When Elijah prayed for God to send him food, God answered by sending ravens to feed him. Let's play a game to remember our Bible verse about the prayers of a godly person.

1. **Recite** the verse together (*printed on back*).
2. **Say** the first word of the verse and pass the raven to the kid on your right.
3. The kid with the raven **says** the next word of the verse, and **passes** the raven to the kid on their right.
4. **Continue** passing the raven, **reciting** the verse one word at a time.
5. If someone forgets the next word, **start over**.
6. **Play** until your group can recite the whole verse!
7. **If time allows**, **play** again but **move** faster.

Choose questions to ask while kids work.

1. **What else did Elijah pray for?** *To keep it from raining, rain, for God to show His power, etc.*
2. **Why do you think it showed courage when Elijah prayed powerful prayers?** *Answers will vary.*

Small Group Discussion

Say the point and Bible verse together.

God gives me courage to pray with power.

James 5:16 NIRV

... The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen.

1. **Whose prayers are powerful?** *Godly people's*

Choose a few review questions.

1. **How does praying show courage?** *It shows we trust God no matter what's going on.*
2. **What takes more courage for you: praying every day or praying in front of others?** *Answers will vary.*
3. **What do you think is the difference between selfish prayers and powerful prayers?** *Answers will vary.*
4. **God might answer prayers differently than expected. If that happens, what do you think will give you courage to keep praying?** *Answers will vary.*
5. **What can you do to find out what God's promises are?** *Look in the Bible.*

Choose an action step question.

1. **What prayer do you need to pray this week?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **What will help you step up and pray powerfully this week?** *Answers will vary.*

Pray together.

1. **Ask** kids to share things they'd like to pray about.
2. **Write down** their prayer requests.
3. **Pray** together over the prayer requests.

Not sure what to pray? Pray this: God, Please give us the courage to pray powerful prayers. Help us trust You hear us and answer us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Check Out

Stay in small groups until kids are checked out.

1. **Talk about** earning points by returning the Challenge Card, and **play** the game again.
2. When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their family.
3. **Encourage** families to do the Challenge Card together.



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

COURAGE WEEK 4 COURAGE DOESN'T QUIT

Small Group Welcome

1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: **What's something you never, ever get tired of doing?**

Small Group Activity

You'll Need

- Straw (1 per child)
- Ping pong ball (1 per child)

To Do

Say: Some godly things are hard to keep up with every single day, like using self-control, having a good attitude when you're upset, or working hard when you'd rather be lazy. God's the only one who can give us the courage to keep it up! So, I have a challenge for you to see if you can keep it up to the very end.

1. **Line up** kids about 4 feet in front of you.
2. **Give** each kid a straw and a ping pong ball.
3. **Count** to three.
4. Kids **blow** through the straw to move the ping pong ball to you without moving from their position.
5. Kids **cheer** each other on so they don't give up.
6. **If time allows, repeat** the challenge, but **move** farther away from the kids.
7. **Collect** the ping pong balls at the end to be reused.

Choose questions to ask while kids work.

1. **When do you feel like giving up?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **What did you think about the ping pong ball challenge?** *Answers will vary.*

Small Group Discussion

Say the point and Bible verse together.

God gives me courage to never give up.

Galatians 6:9 NLT

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

1. **What do we need to keep on doing?** *What is good*

Choose a few review questions.

1. **When is it easy for you to do the right thing over and over?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **What blessings do you think God gives us when we don't give up?** *Answers will vary.*
3. **What are some things you can do to give you courage to keep doing what's right?** *Remember God always loves you; think of good things God did for you or other people before, etc.*
4. **How do you feel when you keep doing the right thing and no one notices or bad things happen?** *Answers will vary.*
5. **Talk about a time you wanted to give up. What did you end up doing?** *Answers will vary.*

Choose an action step question.

1. **What good thing do you need to start doing?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **What good thing do you need to keep doing, even if you're tired of doing it?** *Answers will vary.*

Pray together.

1. **Ask** kids to share things they'd like to pray about.
2. **Write down** their prayer requests.
3. **Pray** together over the prayer requests.

Not sure what to pray? Pray this: God, please give us courage to keep doing what's right, even when it seems nothing around us is going well. In Jesus' name, amen.

Check Out

Stay in small groups until kids are checked out.

1. **Talk about** earning points by returning the Challenge Card, and **repeat** the challenge.
2. When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their family.
3. **Encourage** families to do the Challenge Card together.



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

COURAGE WEEK 5 COURAGE LIVES FOR JESUS

Small Group Welcome

1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: **What is the best prize you can think of?**

Small Group Activity

You'll Need

- Medal (1 per child)

To Do

Say: Courage lives for Jesus, but sometimes it's hard because we have to give up things we're used to. I'm going to challenge you to keep training, even when it gets hard to keep up.

1. **Challenge** kids to do sets of 20 of different exercises with a quick break between sets. *Example exercises: jumping jacks, push-ups, run in place, sit ups, etc.*

Say: Doing exercise when our bodies are tired makes our bodies stronger, but training to run the race for Jesus is different. It makes us stronger to give up our old, selfish ways.

2. **Give** kids a medal to celebrate their endurance and to help them remember to run the race for Jesus every day.
3. **If time allows**, kids **challenge** each other to do more exercises.

Choose questions to ask while kids work.

1. **What do you think was hard about Ray's decision to stay at Konnect HQ?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **What does training to run the race for Jesus do?** *It makes us stronger to give up our old, selfish ways.*

Small Group Discussion

Say the point and Bible verse together.

God gives me courage to live for Jesus.

Mark 8:34 NLT

... "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me."

1. **Who said this verse in the Bible?** *Jesus*

Choose a few review questions.

1. **What is a sacrifice?** *Giving up something we love for something we love even more*
2. **What things distract you from doing what God wants you to do?** *Answers will vary.*
3. **What makes it difficult for you to live 100 percent for Jesus every day?** *Answers will vary.*
4. **When does it take courage to live for Jesus?** *When you have to give up things you like or things you're used to; when others make fun of you, etc.*
5. **What prize can we think about when it's hard to give up our selfish ways?** *Pleasing Jesus, living for Jesus, loving Jesus, etc.*

Choose an action step question.

1. **What selfish ways do you need to give up this week to follow Jesus better?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **Giving up selfish ways isn't easy or comfortable. What can you do this week to have the courage to give them up?** *Answers will vary.*

Pray together.

1. **Ask** kids to share things they'd like to pray about.
2. **Write down** their prayer requests.
3. **Pray** together over the prayer requests.

Not sure what to pray? Pray this: God, please help us trust your way is better than any of our old, selfish ways. In Jesus' name, amen.

Check Out

Stay in small groups until kids are checked out.

1. **Talk about** earning points by returning the Challenge Card, and **challenging** the kids to do more exercises.
2. When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their family.
3. **Encourage** families to do the Challenge Card together.