



**BE BOLD. BE BRAVE.**

**KIDS CAMP 2021**

## **Be Bold! Be Brave!**

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# Camp Gap Bible Study Introduction

The theme for this year at Camp Gap is "**Be Bold! Be Brave!**"

The Bible verse is **2 Timothy 1:7** “**For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.**”

## Bible Study Sessions:

Bible study sessions are from 1 Kings.

### **Lesson 1: Be Bold**

This lesson covers 1 Kings 16:29-17:1. The students learn how Elijah confronts an evil king. It also introduces the theme for the week and the Bible verse.

### **Lesson 2: Be Trusting**

This lesson covers 1 Kings 17:2-16. It shows how God takes care of Elijah during the drought. It encourages students to trust God's care.

### **Lesson 3: Be Holy**

This lesson covers 1 Kings 17:17-24. In this passage Elijah intercedes with God to save the widow's son. There is a discussion of sin and salvation.

### **Lesson 4: Be Brave**

This lesson is from 1 Kings 18:16-39. This lesson covers the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. It will challenge students to be brave in their Christian walk.

## Preparation

1. Prepare a colorful poster for your Bible Study area. Title the poster “Be Bold! Be Brave!” See Item 1-a, you may copy or enlarge this to use as your poster. Each Bible Study session will include a lesson title page and other visuals that you may add to the poster and Bible study area daily.
2. Each session list supplies that you will need to gather before camp. These items include making copies of visuals and activities for the lessons. Some items will be more effective if copied on card stock or colored paper. If your church does not have adequate copiers, please contact the Mt. Lebanon Office immediately at 972-291-7156 for help. Prepare early.
3. Quiet times are available that encourage individual learning each day as well as time alone with God.
4. The Bible Study and quiet time material will use the NIV translation of the Bible. It is suggested that the Bible study teacher use the NIV translation.

# Master Supply List:

## Day 1:

- Copy of Bible study theme title poster “Be Bold! Be Brave!” see item 1a
- Copy of “Bold People,” item 1b
- Copy of lesson title page, “Be Bold,” item 1c
- Fun tac or tape
- White board, poster board or butcher paper and markers
- Copy of the Bible verse 2 Timothy 1:7 for each child, item 1d

## Day 2:

- Lesson title page “Be Trusting” item 2a
- For option 1 in Introduce the Bible Study:
  - a plastic zip lock sandwich bag filled with water
  - several **sharp** pencils
- For option 2 in Introduce the Bible Study:
  - ten to twenty large red solo cups
  - one blindfold for each pair (2 or 3 total)
  - a small surprise (for example package of cookies or inexpensive toy or two dollars)
- Fun tac or tape

## Day 3:

- Several sets of four items. Three of the items have something in common and one item “doesn’t belong.”
- Copy of lesson title page, “Be Holy” item 3a
- Copy of the “Definition of Holy” item 3b
- Tape or fun tac

## Day 4:

- Copy of lesson title page, “Be Brave,” item 4a
- Tape or fun tac
- Pillowcase filled with a variety of fake items such as money, flowers, fruit, teeth, etc.
- blindfold
- Index card for each student
- Pen or pencil for each student

# Be Bold! Be Brave!

## Session 1: Be Bold

### **Purpose:**

- To introduce the “Be Bold! Be Brave!” theme.
- To introduce the memory verse 2 Timothy 1:7.
- To show that God can work in our lives to make us bold.

### **Scripture used:**

- 1 Kings 14:9, 1 Kings 16:29-17:1, 2 Timothy 1:7, James 5:17

### **Memory Verse:**

- 2 Timothy 1:7, “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Copy of Bible study theme title poster “Be Bold! Be Brave!” see item 1a
- Copy of “Bold People,” item 1b
- Copy of lesson title page, “Be Bold,” item 1c
- Fun tac or tape
- White board, poster board or butcher paper and markers
- Copy of Bible verse, 2 Timothy 1:7 for each child, item 1d

### **Teacher Preparation for Bible Study:**

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea.
- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and present the lesson.

### **Main idea:**

- With God we can be bold.

### **Introduce the Bible Study:**

Welcome to camp and the first day of Bible study. This week our theme is “Be Bold! Be Brave!” What do you think of when you hear the expression “Be Bold! Be Brave!”? Listen to responses and post the Bible study title poster “Be Bold! Be Brave!” item 1a.

Ask, “Who can you think of, in the Bible, that was bold or brave?” Possible answers include *Noah, Moses, Esther, Abraham, Daniel, David, Jesus, Peter, John, Paul*. Discuss anyone the students mentioned and maybe add some of your own ideas. You might ask why they consider these people to be bold. Our goal here is to come up with a good definition of what it means when we say someone is bold. So, we need to think about how Noah did the right thing when others disobeyed God and how Moses stood up to Pharaoh and said let God’s people go. Esther stood up against evil and risk her life. Abraham left his family and followed God. Daniel refused to stop praying. David faced Goliath. Jesus spoke against the religious leaders that did not really follow God. Peter and John said they had to obey God rather than men. Paul refused to compromise in his faith even in prison.

What can we learn from these or other examples from the Bible? What does it mean to be bold? Post item 1b as you talk about these or write them on a white board, poster board, or butcher paper.

1. Bold people **speak up**. When they see or hear wrong things, they take a stand. They speak the truth.
2. Bold people **act up**. They do things because they are the right things to do even if they are not the popular things to do. They do the right thing even if they are fearful or there might be negative consequences.
3. Bold people **power up** with God. They realize God is in control and with Him they can do whatever God requires of them.

Post the lesson title poster, “Be Bold,” item 1c in your Bible Study area.

As we go through today’s lesson think about some bold actions you might need to take.

### **Transition to Bible Study:**

Say, “We came up with a nice list of who was bold in the Bible. I am sure we did not cover everyone in the Bible that was bold. Today we will look at one person in the Bible that was bold for God.”

All of the lessons at camp this week will be found in the book of 1 Kings in the Bible. Remind everyone that they will need to bring their Bibles to Bible study each day. Have students open their Bible to 1 Kings 16.

Give them the following background information. The books of First and Second Kings are history books of the Israelite nation. In these books, you can read about many different kings that ruled during this time period. First Kings starts when David is king and then his son Solomon becomes king. After Solomon dies the kingdom splits into two kingdoms Israel and Judah. First Kings gives us a chronological look at each kingdom. Generally, it tells

how long each king reigned and any major spiritual accomplishments of that king. For each king mentioned First Kings gives us a “report card” on that king. Usually it says, “he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord” or “he did evil in the eyes of the Lord.”

Today we will start by looking at one king of Israel named Ahab.

**Teach the Bible Lesson:**

Let’s take a look at what the Bible says about him. Read or have someone else read 1 Kings 16:29-33.

Ask the following questions and use comments below to help explain the scripture.

“How long was Ahab king?” *Twenty-two years.*

“What does God’s report card on King Ahab say?” *He “did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him.”*

“Is that a good report card?” *No! The Bible doesn’t just say he did evil it says more evil than any king before him. Not just evil, **more** evil.*

“What do you think it means when it says in the eyes of the Lord?” *It means God is the one giving the “report card”. God sees what is happening.*

“What do these verses say that Ahab did that was so evil?”

1. *“He considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam.”* Jeroboam did not think it was a big deal to do wrong things. Jeroboam created and worshiped gods other than the one true God. He worshiped idols and he encouraged the entire country to worship false gods. **Read 1 Kings 14:9**, Jeroboam made God angry and refused to follow God.
2. *Ahab married Jezebel a foreign woman that worshipped and served idols. She influenced Ahab to worship idols. He didn’t speak up for the real God.*
3. *He worshipped and served a false god named Baal. He did not serve the only true God.*
4. *He built a temple and alter for Baal. He encouraged the Israelites he ruled to worship the false god Baal. Not only did he do wrong, he encouraged others to do wrong. Many Israelites followed Ahab in worshipping Baal.*
5. *He made an Asherah pole. A wooden carved pole that honored a false goddess.*
6. *He made God angry. It always makes God angry when humans chose to worship fake gods instead of the real God. He did not power up with God, Ahab chose to sin.*

Make sure the students understand that sin is anything that we choose to do that is not what God wants us to do. Sin means we do something wrong according to God. According to God, Ahab was evil and God was angry with Ahab.

Idol worship was a great evil in Ahab's reign. Often people think we do not have that problem today. "Do you think people worship idols today?" Anything that is not God that you love, treasure, want more of, or think will solve your problems, can be acting as an idol in your heart and life. "What are some things that students idolize today?" *Answers will vary but may include money, tv, video games, sports, phones, appearance, self, stuff, and even friends.* These kinds of things can be fine unless we put them ahead of God. "Do you ever think I don't have time to read my Bible but you do have time to hang out with friends or watch tv?"

Now there is one other person in our story today. Read 1 Kings 17:1. This verse introduces us to Elijah. Besides what is in this verse does anyone know anything they can share about Elijah? *Answers will vary. And it is okay if no answers are given as we will learn more about Elijah this week.*

Chapter 17:1 is the first time Elijah is mentioned in the Bible. Elijah is mentioned in one hundred and five verses in all many of them in 1 Kings and 2 Kings but, he is also mentioned in twenty-nine verses in the New Testament. Using just 1 Kings 17:1, "What do we know about Elijah?"

1. *We know his name Elijah the Tishbite.* His name means "Jehovah is God."
2. *We know where he is from.* Tishbe in Gilead was a small town where some of the Israelites lived.
3. *He serves the God of Israel and is talking to the king of Israel.* Elijah is considered a prophet. A prophet is someone who speaks on behalf of God. He is defiantly powered up with God.
4. *He knows the God he serves is alive.* He knows God is the only real God. He didn't just know about God, he knew God.
5. *He comes boldly to Ahab with a message that there will be no rain or dew in the next few years unless he (Elijah) says so.* Ahab is doing evil and many of the Israelites are following him; but Elijah speaks up and acts up boldly to tell this king there will be no rain until Elijah says so.

Baal the false god that Ahab and many Israelites had begun to follow was considered the storm god who controlled the rains and crops. Elijah said, "there will be neither dew nor rain." Surely a storm god could produce rain. Elijah is saying if God is God it is not going to rain.

Elijah emerged from nowhere to confront Ahab with God's word then he disappeared from the public for over three years. He was bold to come before this evil king that refused to follow God and to tell Ahab there would be no rain or dew until Elijah said so. Elijah could do this because God was on the side of Elijah. Israel was not following God like they should. Ahab was not following God. Elijah was acting boldly for God.

### **Apply the Bible Lesson:**

Today we looked at two men in the Bible. One, a king that "did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him." Ahab was not bold for God. He did evil like the kings before him had done. If you were to read 1 Kings 16 you would see four other evil kings that

ruled Israel. Ahab just continued to do evil and even did more than those other kings. Ahab allowed his wife that worshiped false gods to influence him. He did not stand up for God he encouraged evil.

The other person we looked at was a prophet who boldly spoke for the living God. Elijah stood before an evil king and spoke the truth. He knew and served the real God. He delivered an unwelcome message boldly because he knew he was doing what God wanted him to do. In James 5:17 it says, “**Elijah was a human being, even as we are.** He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.”

Like Elijah you can stand up boldly for God also. When you see or hear evil things you can speak the truth. You can do the right thing even when those around you are doing the wrong thing. You can act up for God. You can know that God is in control and power up with Him to do what is required. It might not be easy the first time you do it but God will help you be bold. Here are a few examples (add others if needed or modify to fit your group):

- “If your friends want to ring doorbells and run away what could you do?” *Say no, suggest a different activity or leave the group and go home.*
- “If there is bullying going on at your school how can you act boldly?” *Stand up for the person being bullied or get an adult to come help.*
- “When you see someone sitting alone during lunch what bold action could you take?” *Go ask if you can sit with them or if they will come sit with your friends.*
- “When you break something, you weren’t supposed to touch what should you do that shows boldness?” *Admit you did something wrong, apologize, and take your punishment without complaining.*
- “When you hear friends using God’s name in an inappropriate way what can you say that would be bold?” *Tell them you don’t like it when they talk that way, walk away.*
- “When you hear something in a Bible lesson you don’t understand what can you do?” *Be bold to ask questions.*
- “When someone ask you why you go to church or believe in God what can you do?” *Take the opportunity to share your faith in Christ.*

**Memory Verse:**

Our memory verse this week is 2 Timothy 1:7, “*For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*”

Have all the students find that verse in their Bibles. Have several students read it out aloud.

When we learn a Bible verse, we should make sure we understand what it means. This verse reminds us that God has given us His Spirit to live in us. If you are a Christian you received

the Holy Spirit when you accepted Jesus as your Savior. He lives in you to help you in your life. This Spirit does not make us timid. “What is timid?” *Being timid means showing a lack of courage or confidence; easily frightened.* “What is the opposite of timid?” *Bold.* The Spirit that lives within us does not make us timid He helps us be bold. We will look at more of the verse tomorrow.

Give a copy of the Bible verse (item 1d) to each child. At the end of Bible study help them to post the verse on their bunk so that they can see the words often each day and start to learn it.

If time allows let the students practice saying the verse with a friend or two.

**Closing:**

If time allows, ask a few students to tell you when it is really difficult for them to be bold. Pray for all the students to be bold when they should be and especially for those situations that students mentioned.

**Extra Challenges** (to add to the lesson anytime during the day):

Ask the students to tell you situations in which they would find it difficult to be bold. Help them practice being bold in each situation. Make sure there is no bullying just encouragement. Or make a list of things that might be hard for students and have them act out boldness in each situation.

Encourage boldness today. For example: Who is bold enough to lead us in the prayer? Who is bold enough to go first or last? Who is bold enough to ask a question? Who is bold enough to volunteer for something?

# Be Bold! Be Brave!

## Session 2: Be Trusting

### Purpose:

- To remind students God cares about their needs.
- To encourage students to trust God's care.

### Scripture used:

- 1 Kings 17:2-16, 2 Timothy 1:7

### Memory Verse:

- 2 Timothy 1:7, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

### Supplies Needed:

- Lesson title page "Be Trusting" item 2a
- For option 1 in Introduce the Bible Study:
  - a plastic zip lock sandwich bag filled with water
  - several **sharp** pencils
- For option 2 in Introduce the Bible Study:
  - ten to twenty large red solo cups
  - one blindfold for each pair (2 or 3 total)
  - a small surprise (for example package of cookies or inexpensive toy or two dollars)
- Fun tac or tape

### Teacher Preparation for Bible Study:

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea.
- Prepare introduction activity—see leader preparation on the next page.
- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and present the lesson.

### Main Idea:

- Trust God to meet your needs

**Leader Preparation:** Choose one option below and gather the supplies needed. Practice option 1 on your own if you select this option.

**Introduce the Bible Study:**

Welcome the students to Bible study. Ask them to remind you of one thing they learned yesterday.

Use one of the options below to introduce the Bible study and the idea of trust.

Option 1: Trust Experiment

**Supplies needed:**

- a plastic zip lock sandwich bag filled with water
- several **sharp** pencils
- an adult or child helper
- a chair for the helper to sit in

Have your helper come to the front of the room and sit in a chair where everyone can see. Ask the helper if he trust you. Hold a water-filled zip lock baggie over a helper's head and ask if he trust you not to spill the entire bag of water on his head. If he looks skeptical or tries to move his head away you could say, "It doesn't look like you trust me."

After he is sitting calmly pick up a sharp pencil. Show it to the volunteer and say, "What if I poke a hole in this bag with the pencil? Do you still trust me not to get you wet?" Take a sharp pencil and stab it all the way through the bag! Continue to stab as many pencils through as you can!

When you are finished thank the volunteer and ask, "How hard was it to trust me?"

Option 2: Trust Walk/Minefield

**Supplies needed:**

- two or three pairs of volunteers
- ten to twenty large red solo cups
- one blindfold for each pair
- a small surprise (for example package of cookies or inexpensive toy or two dollars)

Have the volunteers leave the room. While they are gone, they should decide who will give directions and who will be blindfolded. When they come back into the room one person in each pair should be blindfolded.

While the pairs are out of the room lay out a number of cups on the floor to use as obstacles. You may want to make it like a maze. If possible, have all the participants go through the maze at the same time with the prize at the end of the maze. If you do not have enough space you can time each pair and award the prize at the end of the game.

When you say “go” the students who can see need to verbally direct the blindfolded peers across the minefield to the other side without them running into anything. The blindfolded student should not talk, so they have to rely on close listening and trust only. Use your discretion on if a student needs to start over (if they kick a cup over or if they talk or if they run into another student, etc.).

When the game is over thank the volunteers and ask, “How hard was it to trust the verbal directions you were given and not want to cheat?”

Today we will continue to look at the life of Elijah in 1 Kings. The lesson is called, “Be Trusting.” Post item 2a.

**Transition to Bible Study:**

“What does it mean to trust someone?” *Answers will vary.* If you trust someone you really believe they will do what they say. **Trust** is a feeling that somebody or something can be relied upon, that you can count on them. Trust is something that is based on past experience. People earn trust by being reliable, truthful, and dependable.

Today, we will be looking at trusting God. Trusting God involves the belief that God will keep His word, and that you can place your whole life in His care.

Ask, “Can someone remind me what Elijah did in our Bible study, yesterday?” *Elijah went to bad King Ahab and told him there would be no rain in Israel until Elijah said so.*

Let’s see what happened next.

**Teach the Bible Lesson:**

Have the students open their Bibles to the seventeenth chapter of 1 Kings. Read or have someone else read verses two through six. Use the information below to make sure the students understand what is happening in these verses.

After confronting King Ahab, Elijah left. These verses tell us that God told Elijah exactly what to do. Elijah was to go east and hide in Kerith Ravine. God knew that Ahab and his wife Jezebel would be upset with Elijah. God sent Elijah to an isolated place where he would be protected from the King’s wrath.

Not only did God tell Elijah where to go but he also told Elijah that he could drink water from the brook there and that ravens would bring him food. Elijah had just told Ahab there would be no rain until Elijah said so. This was just a brook, not a large body of fresh water; but it is where God told Elijah to go. Ravens are scavengers themselves and not usually providers. Still God told Elijah ravens would provide food for him.

Notice in verse nine what Elijah did. “He did what the Lord had told him.” He didn’t think about it or suggest a better idea. Elijah did what God said. If he thought it was a strange idea, he did not say anything he just did what God said. He went to the Kerith Ravine and drank from the brook and the ravens brought him bread and meat twice a day. God was on

Elijah's side and gave him specific orders. Elijah listened and did what God said. Elijah trusted God. As the drought began God showed Elijah that He was the God of nature and would provide all that Elijah needed. So, Elijah was provided for because he trusted God and did what God told him to do.

Read or have someone read 1 Kings 17:7-16.

God was doing exactly what Elijah said and it was not raining. So, the little stream he was drinking from dried up. The Bible doesn't tell us how long Elijah drank from the stream before it dried up. Once the stream was dry God gave Elijah some more instructions. God told him to go to Zarephath. Zarephath was not part of Israel. It was about one hundred miles away from where Elijah had been staying. It was in an area where the people worshiped Baal and not God.

This time God said a widow would supply Elijah with food. Widows usually were poor and depended on others to supply their needs. God's commands may have seemed strange to Elijah. Go to a foreign country and depend on a widow for food. Elijah did not question God or complain about the distance or that those people didn't even worship God. Elijah trusted God and obeyed what God told him to do. Elijah went to Zarephath.

Elijah didn't know exactly where this widow lived or what her name was or what she looked like; but Elijah trusted God. Once he got to Zarephath he did notice a woman near the town gate gathering sticks. So, Elijah asked her for a drink of water and then a piece of bread. Verse twelve tells us she didn't have much. She had only a handful of flour and a little oil. She said she was gathering sticks so she could prepare what little she had for her and her son. She thought she was preparing her last meal before she and her son died.

Notice also in verse twelve that the woman knew who Elijah was or at least that he was an Israelite that served God. The woman herself did not claim to know God she says, "the Lord **your** God." She had probably heard about the Israelite God but she lived in an area that strongly worshipped Baal. Many people groups around Israel had heard of the great things God had done and many were scared of the Israelite God because He was so powerful.

Elijah is very gentle with the woman. He tells her not to fear but to do as he asked. He says she should make a small cake for him first and then make some for herself and her son. He tells her the God of Israel will provide for her. Elijah says the flour and oil will not run out until God sends rain. She has to make a decision to trust Elijah and do what he says or to not do what he says. She had heard about the power of Elijah's God and she needs help so she decided to trust that God will do as Elijah says.

She did what Elijah suggested. She made him food and then made food for herself and her son. The Bible tells us that the flour and oil were not used up and continued to provide food for Elijah, the woman, and her son. God provided for all of them.

**Apply the Lesson:**

God was leading Elijah during the drought. God told Elijah to go to Kerith Ravine and drink from a stream and let ravens feed him. Elijah trusted God and God took care of him. God told Elijah to go to Zarephath and a widow would supply him with food. Elijah trusted God and God took care of him.

God knows what is going to happen. Nothing surprises Him. God can supply our needs. What do we need to do so that God will supply our needs?

1. Listen to God. How do we do this?
  - a. Spend time with God. Have a time each day that you spend with God. We cannot get to know someone unless we spend time with them. We do not learn more about God unless we spend time with Him.
  - b. Read your Bible. That is your handbook to find out more and more about God.
  - c. Pray to God but also spend time just sitting with Him, listening. Don't be in such a hurry that you don't have time to just think about God and hear what He has to say.
2. Be obedient to God—when you feel Him telling you what to do just do it. Sometimes the thing He wants you to do may seem difficult. You can trust God to be with you and take care of your needs.

If time allows share a time when God has met your needs.

**Memory Verse:**

2 Timothy 1:7, *“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”*

Ask if anyone can say the Bible verse from memory yet. If so let them say it for the group.

Yesterday we talked about how God's Spirit does not make us timid. According to 2 Timothy 1:7 what does God's Spirit give us? *Power, love and self-discipline*. Did Elijah display any of these attributes in today's lesson? *Self-discipline is a pretty obvious answer. Elijah did not depend on himself but trusted God to take care of him*. If students have a different idea listen to that also.

This is a good verse to act out. Let the students come up motions to represent the words of the verse. Put the motions together and say the verse as a group several times. Encourage the students to keep trying to learn the verse.

**Closing:**

Have the students think of some needs that God has met in their lives. Have a group prayer where those who want to thank God for the needs He has met can do so. If your group is large split into smaller groups. Form a circle and go around the group with each person that is willing thanking God. It can just be a sentence prayer or more. Make sure that those who don't want to pray can pass but encourage students to be bold.

**Extra Challenges** (to add to the lesson anytime during the day):

Go back and do the option you did not do in the introduction or let other students participate that did not get to during the introduction.

Ask students to spend some time alone listening to God.

Play Simon says to see who is quick to obey.

Would you trust God if...? Elijah trusted God when some of the things God said sounded strange. He trusted God to have ravens feed him. He trusted God to go to a foreign land where Baal worship was strong. Ask individual students about trusting God. For example: Would you trust God if He told you to talk to someone about Jesus? Would you trust God if He ask you to forgive a friend that lied to you? Would you trust God if He told you to give the money you've been saving to a family in need? Would you trust God if He asks you to fight a giant? Would you trust God if He wants you to leave your family and go be a missionary?

# Be Bold! Be Brave!

## Session 3: Be Holy

### **Purpose:**

- To define holy so that students understand that concept
- To help students understand the plan of salvation.
- To encourage students to make a decision to have a relationship with God.

### **Scripture used:**

- 1 Kings 17:17-24, 2 Timothy 1:7, Romans 3:23, 10:9-10, 1 Peter 1:16

### **Memory Verse:**

- 2 Timothy 1:7, “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Several sets of four items. Three of the items have something in common and one item “doesn’t belong.”
- Copy of lesson title page, “Be Holy” item 3a
- Tape or fun tac
- Copy of Definition of Holy, item 3b

### **Teacher Preparation for Bible Study:**

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea and the plan of salvation.
- Review the plan of salvation.
- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and present the lesson.

### **Main idea:**

- God wants people to be holy.

### **Introduce the Bible Study:**

Play “One of These Things is Not Like the Other.”

Gather several sets of four items. Three items should go together or have something in common, and one item won't belong. For example, you could have a pencil, pen, paper and toy car. Which one doesn't belong? The car, of course. The rest are used when writing. The toy car is **set apart** from the other items.

You might choose individual students to play the game or just play with the entire group. Continue through each set of items you brought. In each round the one item that doesn't belong should be **set apart** from the other items.

Conclude the game by telling the students, “Today's lesson is “Be Holy.” Post lesson title page item 3a.

### **Transition to Bible Study:**

Ask, “Can anyone tell me what it means to be holy?” *Having holiness means being set apart.*

“Can anyone tell me what our game and the title of our lesson have in common?” *In our game something did not belong so that item was set apart from the other items. When someone is holy, they are set apart by God. They look and act differently than those that do not know God.*

To be holy means to be “separate” or “**set apart.**” Post item 3b, the “Definition of Holy.” When it is applied to God it means that God is **set apart** from sin. For people to be holy, it means to be like God in their behavior and actions and to be different than the world. The way you behave is a living example for everyone around. Christians can live **set apart** from the world.

Have a student remind the class of what happened in the story of Elijah yesterday.

It would be a nice ending if the story ended right there with the widow and her son living happily ever after. But in real life things often happen when we least expect them.

### **Teach the Bible Lesson:**

Open your Bibles to 1 Kings 17. Read or have someone read verses seventeen through nineteen. So, Elijah is staying with the widow and her son. Because Elijah is holy (set apart, following God), God is providing for them. After Elijah has been there for a while something bad happens. “What happens?” *The son got sick, got worse and worse and then stopped breathing.*

“Who did the woman blame for her son's death?” *Elijah.*

“Why do you think she blamed Elijah?” *She seemed to think that having Elijah at her house caused God to look at her more closely and see her sin. Elijah had told her that God said her flour and oil would continue until God sent rain, but now she seems to think that God is*

seeing her sin and killing her son because of that sin. She thinks it is all Elijah's fault that God is even noticing her.

"What sin is the woman talking about?" *We don't know. The Bible doesn't say.*

"What is sin?" *Sin is anything we do that is wrong according to God. Ask the students to name some sins. Answers will vary.*

"What does Elijah have the woman do?" *Give him her son.* We don't know how old the son is but he must not have been very old because Elijah takes the son in his arms and carries him to an upstairs room where Elijah has been staying. Notice that the woman does not hesitate to obey Elijah. She knows that there is something different about Elijah.

Read or have someone read the rest of the story, verses twenty through twenty-four.

"What actions does Elijah take to help the boy in these verses?" *He carries the young boy to his room and prays over him. Three times he pleads to the Lord, begging for God to bring this child back to life.*

"What question does Elijah ask God?" *If He brought tragedy on the widow by causing her son to die. Elijah is just as confused as the woman as to why God would allow this kind woman's son to die. And God does not answer Elijah's question.*

"What does he ask God to do?" *"Let this boys life return to him!"*

"What does God do?" *He hears Elijah's prayers and the boy's life is returned to him.* Then Elijah carries the boy back to his mother and gives him to her. The boy is now alive. The fact that God answers Elijah's prayers show that Elijah is a holy man. A man that is living for God, set apart from the world.

"How does the mother respond?" *Now she knows for sure that Elijah is a "man of God" and that the Lord speaks truth through Elijah.* The widow of Zarephath had heard of the Israelite God. Now she realizes that Elijah is a "man of God," someone who is holy or **set apart** to do what God wants him to do. When God used Elijah to provide for her earthly needs, she recognized that Elijah's God took care of her. When her son died, she realized she was not holy, she was a sinner. She had heard a lot of stories about God but when God delivered her son from the dead, she realized that God was the God that spoke the truth.

The Bible doesn't tell us that this woman gave up worshipping Baal and started worshipping the true God. Maybe she did because God showed her, she was a sinner and that He is the true God. God sent Elijah into her life. God cared for her and her son. God worked in the miraculous way so that the widow could truly understand just how amazing God is.

**Apply the Lesson:**

What about you? Have you heard talk about God, it sounds interesting, but you don't really understand it all and you have no idea where to begin? Or maybe you've heard about God for a long time. You go to church. You read the Bible. Maybe you see God more as your friend's God or your parent's God. Maybe you have never really made God **your** God. Everyone seems to know something about God. What if you want to be holy for God?

If you want to be holy you first have to realize, like the woman did, that you are a sinner. We are all sinners. We all do things wrong according to what God tells us to do. No one is perfect. Think to yourself, what are some sins that you know you have committed? Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." None of us measure up we all sin. You must admit to God that you are a sinner.

Then you need to know that God loves you and sent Jesus to die for you so that you could live with God. Romans 10:9-10 says, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." Believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and confess (say) that you want Jesus as Lord of your life.

Christian can possess holiness because of their relationship to God through Jesus. Holiness means being set apart; it's being a reflection of God's goodness and righteousness in this world. It does not mean you are perfect it means you don't act like most of the world but you imitate a perfect Savior.

Tell the students who they can talk to if they want to know more about letting Jesus be in charge of their life.

**Memory Verse:**

See if any students can tell you the verse address of the memory verse.

2 Timothy 1:7, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." Let several students try to say the memory verse to the entire group.

What does the Holy Spirit give us? *Power, love, and self-discipline.* Which of those attributes do you think Elijah showed in the story today? *Elijah showed love to the widow and her son by praying for the son and asking God to bring his life back. He was also very gentle with the widow by just taking the boy and not lecturing her about her sin.* The students may have other ideas also.

What are some ways we can show love to those around us? Answers will vary.

Encourage students to continue to learn the memory verse.

**Closing:**

Remind students who they can talk to if they would like to talk more about letting God be in charge of their life.

Pray for all the students that they will come to really know God and be holy for Him.

**Extra Challenges** (to add to the lesson anytime during the day):

Play Copy Me.

Have students sit opposite you and copy everything you do. They should mirror your actions. Explain that imitating is what we should do with God. He is holy; therefore, we are to be holy (1 Peter 1:16.)

If you know that a student is struggling with learning the Bible verse find some extra time to help them today.

Tell your story.

How did you become a Christian? This is a great day to give your testimony.

# Be Bold! Be Brave!

## Session 4: Be Brave

### **Purpose:**

- To show God's power.
- To challenge students to be brave in their Christian walk.

### **Scripture used:**

- 1 Kings 18:16-39, 2 Timothy 1:7, Isaiah 41:10 & 13, Psalms 27:1

### **Memory Verse:**

- 2 Timothy 1:7, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Copy of lesson title page, "Be Brave," item 4a
- Tape or fun tac
- Pillowcase filled with a variety of fake items such as: money, jewels, flowers, fruit, teeth, fur, hair, snake, spider, stuffed animal, etc.
- Blindfold
- Small index card for each student
- Pen or pencil for each student

### **Teacher Preparation for Bible Study:**

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea.
- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and present the lesson.

### **Main idea:**

- Be brave God can do amazing things.

### **Introduce the Bible Study:**

Play, What's in the bag?

Ask for volunteers without telling the students why they are volunteering.

In this game a student will be blindfolded and asked to reach in a pillowcase to feel and identify an item. They then pull the item out of the case and show it to the class. They're only allowed to use their hands to feel what it might be. Let several students play the game. As they identify an item and pull it out of the case lay each item on a table or floor so the group can see all the items. Move through the items quickly.

After a few minutes or when all the items are out thank the students for volunteering. Mention that sometimes it is scary to volunteer when you don't even know what you will be doing. For some people it is hard to get up in front of a group. So, thank you to our brave volunteers. Today our lesson is called, "Be Brave." Post lesson title page item 4a, Be Brave.

Call the students attention back to the items taken from the case. Asked if anyone can tell you what all these items have in common. *These are all fake items.* They are not real. There are many things in our lives that are made to look real but really are not. How can you tell if something is real? *You have to put it through some test that will prove its genuineness.* For example, you could bite into the fruit if it was real. If the spider or snake were real you could make them move. If the flowers were real you could smell them or they would wilt. If the money was real you could buy something with it, etc. In each case we could tell if it were real by some test. In today's lesson we will be learning about a test that God gave His people so they could know that He was the only genuine God and that all other gods were fakes.

Some people do not live like the Bible tells them to. The Bible tells us that there is only one God and He is the only one we should worship. At the time the Bible was written, lots of people believed there were many gods and that they could choose which one was the real God. Even today some people think other things are more important than God. Anytime we think something is more important than God we are making that thing our god.

### **Transition to Bible Study:**

What does it mean to be brave? *Brave is having or showing courage so you are able to face and deal with danger, difficulty or fear without backing down.* Some common characteristics of a brave person are compassion, determination, confidence and fear.

Today we continue with Elijah's story. Quickly let's remember the stories we have heard so far. In one sentence, who can tell me about Be Bold? *Elijah was bold and told Ahab it would not rain until Elijah said so. Then Elijah went away.* Who can tell me about Be Trusting? *Elijah listened to God and trusted God to take care of him during the drought.* And who can tell me about Be Holy? *Elijah was holy, so with God he could help the widow when her son died.*

It had been about three and a half years since Elijah told Ahab it would not rain. Ahab had tried to find Elijah during the drought but God had hidden Elijah. Finally, God tells Elijah to return to Israel and talk to King Ahab. Ahab accuses Elijah of bringing trouble on Israel but

Elijah tells Ahab that he is the one that has caused the trouble by worshiping Baal. This is where our story today begins.

**Teach the Bible Lesson:**

In our lesson today we will look at some people that believed in gods but not the real God. They thought their gods were more powerful than the one true God. Have students open their Bibles to 1 Kings 18. This story takes place in the kingdom of Israel. King Ahab worshiped fake gods called Baal and Asherah. Remember he had built a temple to Baal and encouraged the people of Israel to worship Baal.

Read 1 Kings 18:18-21. In these verses we see that Elijah request that all the people come to Mount Carmel. This includes 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah, two of the fake gods the people worshiped. Elijah was very brave to stand up to all the prophets of Baal and Asherah. He could be brave because Elijah knew that his God was the real true God. When all the people are there Elijah tells them, they need to pick which god they will serve. They can serve the real God or Baal. Verse 21, tells us that the people said nothing. They may have been afraid of the King or they may have not known who to serve but they did not choose between God and Baal.

Since the people did not immediately choose a god to serve, Elijah suggested a contest. Read verses 22-24. At that time people offered animal sacrifices to their gods. So, Elijah suggested that the prophets of Baal should have a contest with him, the Lord's prophet. Remember, there are 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah on the mountain. In the contest each group would prepare a sacrifice for their god but not light the sacrifice on fire. They would pray to their god and the true God would answer by fire. The people were not silent this time. They thought the contest was a great method to find out who truly was God. How could Elijah be so brave? *He knew God was with him.*

Elijah let the prophets of Baal go first. Read verses 25-29 to see how the god Baal responded. Baal's prophets prayed from morning till noon, they shouted, they danced, they shouted louder and they cut themselves to get Baal's attention. But there was no answer. Verse 29, tells us no one paid any attention. Why do you think Baal did not answer? *Because he is not real, he is a fake god.*

Now it was Elijah's turn. He called the people to the Lord's altar. Read all he did in verses 30-37. Elijah prepared the Lord's altar that had been broken; he put stones around it and dug a trench around it. Then he put wood and the animal sacrifice on the altar. Elijah had the people pour water on the sacrifice and the wood until the large trench around it was filled with water. Pouring water over everything doesn't really sound like a very good idea when you want fire. This seems like a difficult test for God.

After all that preparation, Elijah said a simple prayer to God. Elijah said, "You are God in Israel," (1 Kings 18:36). Elijah recognized God. Who is God in your life? In his prayer Elijah said to God, "I am your servant." He knew he was there to serve God and do what God told him to do. Elijah could not send fire from heaven but God could. Elijah didn't just decide that he would go and challenge the Baal prophets. He did what God told him to do.

He says, "I have done all these things at your command." Elijah asked God to answer so the people would know that God was God. Elijah knew that even with water covering the sacrifice God would answer his prayer.

What happened? Did God answer? Read verses 38-39. The fire of the Lord came and burned the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the soil and even the water in the trench. What power the Lord showed! He didn't just win the contest by lighting the sacrifice on fire. He burned up even dirt, rocks and water. I don't know of anyone else with that power. No wonder Elijah could be brave; God was with him. Did the Israelites know which God was real now? Verse 39, tells us they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord He is God."

### **Apply the Lesson:**

King Ahab had searched for Elijah for over three years. He saw Elijah as a troublemaker. All the prophets of Baal and Asherah thought fake gods were real. Even the Israelite people were confused about who was the true God. Into this situation, Elijah shows great bravery by standing up to the people, the false prophets, and the king.

The Bible tells us many times to not be afraid. In Isaiah 41:10, God promises to strengthen us and help us. God did it for Elijah and He can strengthen and help us also. We can stand up for the things that are right if God is with us. God is the only true God. The only God that can answer prayer. The only God that can hear you. The only God that knows you. God can do amazing things. Make sure God is your God and you are serving Him and no one else.

Remember that Elijah was not bold, trusting, holy or brave on his own. Elijah knew God. Elijah listened to God and served God. Elijah did some difficult things but he could do those things because God was with him.

God will ask you to do difficult things. Sometimes the Lord asks us to do hard things, things we find awkward, even embarrassing. One difficult thing God ask you to do is let Him be in charge of your life. If you don't know God, this week is a great time to talk to someone about letting God be in charge of your life.

If you have already made that decision and you know God is in charge of your life, what will He ask you to do? It probably won't be calling fire from heaven, but it might be telling someone about Jesus, or inviting them to attend church with you. Maybe it will be making friends with people that are not popular or sitting and talking with someone that is lonely. It could be treating unkind people with kindness or refusing to use God's name in a casual or unholy way. God will ask you to do difficult things.

*"How do you prepare to do difficult things with God?" Read your Bible. Pray. Go to church. Learn everything you can about God. Listen for what God says to you. Memorize scripture. Start telling others about Jesus.*

If time allows you might want to share a difficult thing God has ask you to do.

**Memory Verse:**

Review 2 Timothy 1:7, “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.” Encourage some students that have not said the Bible verse to say it to the group.

Say the verse all together if you came up with motions see if the students can remember them. Encourage any student that has not said the verse yet to do so today.

Ask again, “What does the Holy Spirit give us according to this verse?” *Power, love, and self-discipline.* Which of those attributes do you think Elijah showed in the story today? *Elijah showed power (bravery) to do all that God told him to do. He showed up and stood up against 850 fake prophets.* The students may have other ideas also.

**Closing:**

If time allows, give each child a small index card and a pencil or pen. Have the students spread out some and spend time praying for themselves and listening to God. They should use the index card to write anything down that they feel like God is telling them to do. After a few minutes pray for the entire group to be able to do the hard things that God ask them to do.

**Extra Challenges (to add to the lesson anytime during the day):**

Discuss, what are you afraid of? Maybe make a list of the things that scare the students and shepherds. Share verses such as Isaiah 41:13 or Psalms 27:1 with them.

Roll play some difficult situations with the students. You could even divide into small groups and have the students come up with things that are difficult for them to do. Then they should come up with a skit that shows them standing up to a bully or telling someone about Jesus or whatever they thought was hard.

Look for students that are doing the difficult thing. That could be just letting others go before them on the zip line or for some just doing the zip line. Or it could be volunteering to pray or sharing something with the other students. Tell them you will be watching today to see who is doing difficult things. Encourage them with a surprise or high five.