

Summer 2017 CT: I Am Brave - Preschool

<p>Wk1:</p> <p>June 12-17</p>	<p>Story Week Pt 1: Max Isn't Brave</p> <p>“Who is Brave?”</p> <p>“I am Brave. God is bigger than my fear. I am safe in His loving hands.”</p> <p>2 Timothy 1:7 (NET)</p> <p>“For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Story Part 1 & Ask Questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. In our new story, Max sees someone who is very brave. Who is it? <i>(A fireman named Paul.)</i> b. What brave things does Paul the fireman do in the story? <i>(He goes into a burning building; He climbs up into a tall tree to rescue a girl)</i> c. What is Max afraid of? <i>(Max is afraid of heights, so he cannot climb up to help the girl when she gets stuck in the tree)</i> 2. Character Declaration and verse: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask “Who is Brave?” (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)
<p>Wk2:</p> <p>June 19-24</p>	<p>Bravery is Understanding My Fears</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Character Declaration and verse <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask “Who is Brave?” (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse) 2. What act of bravery did Max see in last week's story? <i>(He saw a fireman go into a burning building)</i> 3. Sometimes we are afraid, and we need to be brave. What does it mean to be afraid? <i>(Being afraid means being worried that something bad will happen)</i> 4. What are some things that you or other kids might be afraid of? <i>(Afraid of the dark at bedtime; Afraid of snakes or spiders; Afraid of walking across the high balance beam by yourself; Afraid of going upside down)</i> 5. How should we treat someone when we find out they are afraid of something? <i>(We should not laugh at them or make fun of them; We should encourage them and be a good friend to them.)</i>

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<p>Wk3: June 26- July 1 <i>(Closed July 1st)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Story Week Pt 2: Max Versus Fear</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listen to Story & Ask Questions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Do you remember what one of Max's biggest fears is? <i>(He is afraid of heights)</i> b. What kind of trouble does Max get into in today's story? <i>(His frisbee gets stuck in a tall tree, and he is afraid to go that high to get it out of the tree.)</i> c. How does Max get himself to be brave enough to get his frisbee back? <i>(He reminds himself that God is bigger than his fears, and he is safe in God's hands.)</i> 2. Character Declaration and verse: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)
<p>Wk4: July 3-8 <i>(Closed July 3-4)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bravery Is Realizing What I Really SHOULD Be Afraid Of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Character Declaration and verse: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse) 2. What happened in last week's story? <i>(Max had to climb a tall tree after his frisbee got stuck; He was brave!)</i> 3. Do you think that being brave means that you are never afraid of anything? <i>(No! If we didn't have things we were afraid of, we actually wouldn't need to be brave!)</i> 4. So.. what does it mean to be brave? <i>(Being brave means we do what is right, even when we are afraid of it)</i> 5. HOW can you be brave when you are afraid of something? <i>(Just like Max did, remind yourself that God is bigger than the things you are afraid of, and you are safe in His loving hands.)</i>

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<p>Wk5: July 10-15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Story Week Pt 3: Still Not Brave Enough</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listen to Story & Ask Questions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why is Max upset in today's story? <i>(He feels bad for the boy who was getting beat up by some bullies).</i> b. What does Max wish he had done differently? <i>(He wishes he had been brave enough to stick up for the boy and help him).</i> c. How does Max's dad help him? <i>(Max's dad reads him a bible verse about how God will help him to not be afraid; He tells Max he will have another chance to be brave.)</i> 2. Character Declaration and verse <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)
<p>Wk6: July 17-22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bravery Comes From Knowing How Great God Is</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Character Declaration and verse <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse) 2. What happened in last week's story that Max felt bad about? <i>(A boy was getting beat up by some bullies, and Max felt bad that he wasn't brave enough to help the boy.)</i> 3. How does God help you to become brave? <i>(God loves you, and even though He lets bad things happen to us sometimes, He promises to make everything in your life turn out for good.)</i> 4. Romans 8:28 says "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." 5. What should you remind yourself of next time you are afraid of something? <i>(God is bigger than anything I am afraid of. He will work everything out for my good.)</i>

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<p>Wk7: July 24-29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Story Week Pt 4: Max's Second Chance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listen to Story & Ask Questions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How is Max brave in today's story? <i>(He sticks up for the boy when he is being bullied.)</i> b. Does Max get hurt? <i>(Yes - The bully punches Max when Max sticks up for the boy.)</i> c. How does Max feel after he sticks up for the boy and then gets hurt? <i>(Max is proud of what he has done; Max knows he has been brave and done the right thing)</i> 2. Character Declaration and verse <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)
<p>Wk8: July 31 - August 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bravery Happens When I Stand On God's Truth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Character Declaration and verse <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse) 2. How was Max brave in last week's story? <i>(He stopped the bully from picking on the boy)</i> 3. Listen to this verse: Psalms 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." 4. What does this verse tell us about God? <i>(God is our refuge and strength; God is there to help us when we are in trouble.)</i> 5. What does it mean that God is our refuge and strength? <i>(It means that God protects us; He helps us to be strong)</i> 6. How did God help Max to be brave? <i>(Max remembered verses from the bible that said he did not have to be afraid.)</i>

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<p>Wk9: August 7-12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Story Week Pt 5: Bravery in Action</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listen to story and discuss questions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What happened at Max's school? (<i>There was a fire</i>) b. What did Max see after he got out in the parking lot? (<i>He saw that someone was stuck inside the burning building</i>) c. It was very dangerous and scary to go back into the burning building. Why do you think Max tried to go in there? (<i>Max knew that someone needed help, and he was brave enough to try because he knew God would be with him.</i>) 2. Character Declaration and verse <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)
<p>Wk10: August 14-19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bravery Is Doing What Is Right In Spite Of My Fear (not being fearless)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Character Declaration and verse <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse) 2. What happened in the story last week? (<i>Max saw that someone was stuck inside a burning building, and he went in to help them, even though he was afraid.</i>) 3. What are some things that you are afraid of? (<i>Climbing the rope? Jumping over beanies on the beam? Going to sleep in the dark?</i>) 4. What can you say to yourself the next time you are afraid, to help you be brave? (<i>Say the memory verse that Max said to himself that reminds you: "For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control."</i>) 5. Remember: God loves you, and He is watching over you. Be brave and do what you know you need to, even if it is scary!

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<p>Wk11: August 21-26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Story Week Pt 6: Max Is Brave</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listen to story and discuss questions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How does Max help the boy in the burning building? (<i>Max goes into the building and carries the boy out to safety</i>) b. What do you think was scary for Max? (<i>The smoke made it hard to breathe; Max was in danger of being burned by the fire; Max could have died</i>) c. The story does not tell us exactly what happened to Max, but his brave actions remind us of someone who loves us so much that he died to save us from our sins (the wrong things we have done). Do you know who this is? (<i>Jesus - He is the one who died for us, to save us from punishment for the wrong things we have done and show us God's love.</i>) 2. Character Declaration and verse <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)
<p>Wk12: August 28 - September 2 (Closed Monday Aug. 28 for staff training)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bravery Cares About What Is Right More Than What Is Comfortable</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Character Declaration and verse <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse) 2. What happened in last week's story? (<i>Max is brave and goes into a burning building to rescue a boy who is stuck in there, even though it is very dangerous and scary</i>) 3. Max has taught us some important things about what it means to be brave: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A brave person will do what is right, even if it is uncomfortable. b. A brave person tries to help others, even if they are afraid. c. A brave person always remembers that God is with them and loves them.

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Wk13:**Sept. 4-9**

(Closed Monday
Sept. 4 for labor
day)

Bravery Is Growing In Me

1. Character Declaration and verse
 - a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)
2. How have you grown more brave in gymnastics? (*I have learned to climb up the stall bars; I have learned to climb the rope higher; I have learned to jump over beanies on the beam; Etc.*)
3. What is something you want to become more brave in?

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Part 1 Max Isn't Brave

Max watched the apartment building go up in flames. Explosions burst from the windows and glass flew in all directions. It was burning hot! Just then Max saw a team of firemen jump out of their truck. They had masks covering their faces, air tanks on their backs, and axes in their hands. Max watched each fireman go into the burning building. They didn't even look scared! Max saw the face of the last fireman to enter. He looked very calm and focused. There was no sign of being afraid.

Max felt his phone ring.

"Hey, Mom."

"Where are you, Max?"

"I'm on my way home, but there's a huge fire I'm watching!"

"Max! Get away from it and get home now!" ordered his mother.

Max left, but he could still see the calm face of that last fireman.

That night he had terrible dreams about fires.

On his way to school, Max heard someone yelling, "Help! Help! I can't get down!" Max looked around and saw a small girl way up at the very top of a tall tree who was clinging to a branch.

"Please help me get down! I came up here to get my cat, and now I can't get down."

"Oh no!" thought Max. He was afraid of everything that was high off the ground.

"I can't help you.... I can't climb that high!"

"Please, help me," cried the girl. Max texted his mom to ask what to do. She told him to call the fire department.

A fire truck soon pulled up and a fireman came over to the tree where Max was slumped at the bottom.

"Are you the one who called?" the fireman asked.

"Yes," Max said with a sad face. "I couldn't help her."

When Max looked up, he saw it was the same brave fireman who went into the burning building yesterday. He felt very embarrassed.

The fireman got the ladder, went up the tree, and helped the girl down. Afterward, he saw that Max was upset so he walked over to him. "My name is Paul. What's yours?" Max slowly lifted his head. "I'm Max."

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“What's the matter Max? You seem a bit sad.”

“I couldn't help her,” muttered Max.

“Why not?”

“I was too afraid to climb that high,” said Max.

“I saw you yesterday. You didn't look scared at all. How can you go right into a burning building and not be afraid?” The fireman reached into his pocket and pulled out a small notebook. “Max, when I first started fighting fires, I was *very* scared. Sometimes I couldn't move. I was so embarrassed and felt like a failure. One morning as I read my bible, God showed me a verse. It's from 2 Timothy 1:7 and says, '*For God did not give us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.*' I say this verse everyday. It reminds me that God made me to be powerful and able to do what is right. When I say this verse, I believe it, and I can step into those fires and feel that *I am brave. God is bigger than my fear. I am safe in His loving hands.* I want you to keep this book for yourself. Read it every day until you believe it.

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Part 2 Max Versus Fear

As soon as Max rolled out of bed, he picked up the small notebook Fireman Paul had given him. He read the bible verse three times. *"For God did not give us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control."* Then he put it in his pocket and went to school.

When school let out, Max headed to the field to play frisbee with his friends. They decided to have a contest to see who could throw it the farthest. When Max's turn came, he whipped the frisbee as hard as he could. A gust of wind lifted the frisbee high into the air. Up and up it went until it finally came to rest atop a tall pine tree. Max's friends cheered, "You won, Max! That was amazing!" Then they laughed saying, "Looks like you're going to be climbing!"

Max was *very* nervous. His hands began to sweat as he stared up at the frisbee. When he wiped the sweat onto his pants, he felt the notebook in his pocket. He pulled it out and read the special message from the fireman. He read it over and over. "Hurry up, Max," yelled his friends. "We don't have forever."

Max put the notebook in his pocket and reached for the first branch. He pulled himself up, then slowly reached for the second branch. One shaky step at a time, Max got closer to the frisbee. But every step got harder. He was almost to the top, but then he suddenly stopped. He was too scared to go higher. He closed his eyes. "What did Paul say?" He thought hard. "I remember! *'I am brave...God is...bigger than my fear... I am safe in His loving hands.'*" Max forced himself upward, grasping tightly to the final branches until... "I got it!" he said smiling.

Max tucked the frisbee inside his shirt then slowly worked his way down. Finally, he reached the last branch, jumped to the ground, and rolled to his back. A rush came over him as he looked upward and exclaimed, "Yes, I did it!" He trotted back toward his friends thinking, "I am brave, I AM brave..."

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Part 3 Still Not Brave Enough

The bell rang. School was out for the day. Max grabbed his backpack and headed outside. As he turned the corner of the school building, he saw a small circle of boys surrounding someone. He walked slower so he could hear what was happening.

"What's wrong with you?" yelled a tall boy in the circle. "You're such a weakling. You can't even punch me back. Get up and fight!" Then Max heard a thud. The bully had punched a skinny boy in the face and he fell. Then the bully kicked him.

Max felt sick as he watched. "I need to help him," thought Max, "but what if I get hurt too?" The skinny boy was hit and kicked again. But Max was too scared to help, so he slowly turned and walked home. He felt very guilty. He should have helped that boy. He was so sad, he almost cried.

At dinner that night, Max didn't eat anything.

"What's the matter, Max?" asked his dad. "I wasn't brave today," sighed Max "I'm always too afraid to do what is right."

"What were you afraid of?"

Max told his dad about the bully hitting the small boy. "Well, Max, being brave can be very hard because you do get hurt sometimes. What do you wish you would have done?"

"I wish I would have jumped in there and pushed those mean guys away!"

"That would have been exciting, wouldn't it?" said his dad. "Well, you aren't happy with how it ended today. Do you think you would be happier right now if you had helped the boy, even if you had gotten punched and kicked?" Max thought for a minute. "Yes, I *think* so..."

Later that evening, Max's dad came into his room. "Max, when I am afraid to do what I know is right, I remember the verse from Psalm 27:1. *'The LORD is my light and my salvation-- whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life-- of whom shall I be afraid?'*" He gave Max a hug. "God might give you another chance to be brave. He is good and wants us to learn to do the right thing."

After his dad left, Max quickly reached for his notebook and wrote this new verse in it. He read his two verses over and over until he slowly drifted to sleep.

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Part 4 Max's Second Chance

It was finally lunch break at school! As Max sat down to eat, a tall boy came over. It was Tom - the same guy who hurt another boy few weeks earlier.

"Hey, Max! I hear you're good at frisbee. Want to play after school?" Max was surprised Tom asked him. He hardly knew Max. "Sure," said Max. "Great! See you after school," Tom said.

Max wasn't sure that he should have said yes. Tom could be mean. But Max decided he should find out what Tom and his friends were like.

After school, the game began. Max jumped and grabbed the frisbee with one hand. "Nice catch, Max!" yelled Tom. Max threw it to his teammate and they scored! "Good job! Quick drink break and then we'll go again," yelled Tom.

As they sat down, another boy walked across the field. "Well, well...look who it is," pointed Tom. "You looking for another beating, boy?" he shouted. Max looked over and saw the same skinny boy Tom had beaten up a few weeks ago. "Leave me alone and play your stupid game!" called the boy. Tom ran after him, knocked him down, and started punching him.

Max jumped up and then froze. "What should I do?" he thought. "Tom will be really mad if I try to stop him." Max then remembered the sick feeling he had when he didn't help the last time. The verses Max had read over and over now rushed into his head. "*For God did not give us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.*" "*The LORD is my light and my salvation-- whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life-- of whom shall I be afraid?*" Max knew what he needed to do. He ran over and pushed Tom off the boy.

"Leave him alone, Tom! He hasn't done anything wrong."

Tom looked shocked for a minute. He stood up and stared at Max, but Max stood tall and said, "I'm not going to watch you hurt someone who hasn't done anything wrong." Tom grabbed Max and swung at his face. Max ducked, but Tom punched him in the stomach instead. Max dropped to the ground.

"Stay away from me, Max! You're a loser!" shouted Tom as he walked off the field.

Once Max recovered, he stood and helped the other boy up. Then he headed for home.

Max couldn't wait to tell his dad. Today, he didn't feel sick or guilty. Though he felt pain in his stomach, he also felt peace in his heart. His mind filled with the wonderful thought, "I am brave... I am brave."

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Part 5 Bravery in Action

It was almost time for summer break. School days passed so slowly now that Max would often pull out his notebook and read through his verses. He was amazed at the power they had to change him. Max believed the verses he read daily. He also repeated Fireman Paul's words: *I am Brave. God is bigger than my fear. I am safe in His loving hands.* Max added his own favorite verses to his notebook, too. His latest addition was Isaiah 41:13-14:

"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, 'Do not fear; I will help you. Do not be afraid, for I myself will help you,' declares the Lord, 'your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.'"

Max knew he didn't have to be brave on his own. God was the one who made him brave.

Suddenly, the fire alarm sounded! A voice boomed out the loudspeaker, "This is NOT a drill! This is a REAL fire!"

"Stay in line and follow the escape plan!" called the teacher. When Max's class reached the hall, black smoke was pouring in. They all began to cough. Finally, they reached the exits and gathered in the parking lot.

"Everyone stay back. The fire department is on its way," shouted the principal. Max could barely hear the sirens. "They aren't very close," he thought. He looked up at a second-floor window where smoke was pouring out. At that moment he saw a hand slapping at the window. Someone was still inside!

"There's someone up there!" yelled Max as he pointed to the window. A teacher looked. "No - that's my room. I know everyone is out," she said.

"No! There's someone inside!" cried Max.

"Everyone is out; we counted them!" assured the teacher.

Max ran toward the school doors. "Get back here now!" screamed someone. Max ignored the command and headed straight for the doors. Fear gripped him as he felt the heat blast his face. He covered his nose and mouth with his sleeve and paused. He knew there was someone upstairs, and he knew the fire department wouldn't make it in time. Max was scared, but he repeated this verse: *"God did not give us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control."* Max believed those words and dashed into the burning building.

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Part 6
Max IS Brave

The heat burned against Max as he made his way up the stairs. He headed toward the room where he had seen the hand waving. It was hard to breathe. The smoke filled his lungs instead of air. He felt sick.

Finally, he reached the classroom. He pushed open the door and slowly walked toward the window through the black smoke. His foot bumped into something. He reached down and felt a hand. The boy was barely alive. Max heaved him onto his back and stumbled toward the door. He could hardly breathe. With each step, he felt weaker. "God, please help me get him out. I can't do it."

Max thought he would fall over each time he took a step. Somehow, he made it to the staircase and down to the first floor. He crawled toward the door then dragged himself outside and dropped to his stomach.

The firemen were now pulling up. They rushed to Max who lay motionless. One fireman lifted him up while another fireman tended the other boy. The fireman put Max on a stretcher and began pumping hard on his chest to get his heart to beat again. Finally, Max woke and peeked through swollen eyes.

"Hello there, Max," said the fireman. Max was very dazed and his whole body was burned. "Do you know who I am?"

"Paul?" Max uttered weakly.

"Yeah. You look a little different than when I last saw you. I heard you ran in there to save that boy. Why did you do that?" asked Paul.

Max moved his leg a bit and Paul saw something in his pocket.

"Do you want that out of your pocket?"

"Yes," uttered Max. Paul pulled out the notebook and smiled.

"This also looks a little different than when I last saw it."

On the front of the notebook it said, *I Am Brave*. As Paul turned the pages, he saw all the verses Max had written in it. When he reached the final page, he saw where Max had written the same thing over and over.

Max slowly turned his head toward Paul. With a faint whisper he began, "*I am Brave....*," but Max could not finish the words. Paul read the rest... "*God is bigger than my fear. I am safe in His loving hands.*"

Then Max's body relaxed.