

Summer 2017 CT: I Am Brave - Team

Wk1:

June 12-17

Story Week Pt 1: Max Isn't Brave

“Who is Brave?”

“I am Brave. God is bigger than my fear. I am safe in His loving hands.”

2 Timothy 1:7 (NET)

“For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

1. Read Story Part 1 & Ask Questions:

- a. What amazed Max as he watched the last fireman enter the burning building? *(He showed no sign of fear in spite of the obvious threat to his life.)*
- b. What was Max's big fear he could not overcome? *(Fear of heights)*
- c. What was the secret to the fireman's bravery that he shared with Max? *(The bible verse which the fireman said every day until he truly believed it.)*
- d. What did the fireman give to Max and tell him to do with it? *(He gave him his notebook with the bible verse and said to read it every day. Read it until you believe it.)*
- e. *What is your greatest fear (either here at the gym or perhaps outside)?
- f. *If God is not the one who gives fear, where does it come from?

2. In depth Story Questions:

- a. Why is Max amazed at the fireman?
- b. Why is bravery inspiring?
- c. Why does Max feel shame about not being able to rescue the girl?
 - i. *His fear stopped him from doing what he knew was right*
- d. Have you ever failed at something because of your fear?
 - i. How did it make you feel?

3. Character Declaration and verse:

- a. Ask “Who is Brave?” (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)

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Wk2:

June 19-24

Bravery is Understanding My Fears

1. Character Declaration and verse

“Who is Brave?”

“I am Brave. God is bigger than my fear. I am safe in His loving hands.”

2 Timothy 1:7 (NET)

“For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

2. What is fear?
 - a. *An anxious feeling, caused by our anticipation of some imagined event or experience.*
3. It may be argued that there are 5 basic fears ([*article*](#)):
 - a. Fear of death
 - b. Fear of physical hurt
 - c. Fear of no freedom/being completely controlled (loss of autonomy)
 - i. *Physically: claustrophobia, Mentally: fear of commitment, fear of jail*
 1. *“If I marry that person, I won’t be able to be with someone else”*
 2. *“If I am locked up in jail, someone else will be controlling me, I won’t get to choose what I want to do.”*
 - d. Fear of Separation
 - i. *rejection, abandonment, loss of connectedness- not wanted, respected or valued by anyone else.*
 - ii. *“They might not like me anymore; they might not be my friend”*
 - e. Fear of Ego Death
 - i. *Humiliation, shame, disapproval of others. I am not lovable*
 - ii. *“I will look bad if I fail”*
4. Other fears are actually ‘fears of fear’
 - a. They may be based on memories of fear from another time in our life.
 - b. We often have these unconsciously.
5. Fear is information. It should tell us about ourselves.
6. What are some things you are afraid of?
 - a. *Discuss fears*
7. Why do you think it’s important to identify and know what we are afraid of?
 - a. *Once we know what we are facing - we can develop a plan to overcome it.*

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Wk3:

June 26-

July 1

(Closed July 1st)

Story Week Pt 2: Max Versus Fear

1. Listen to Story & Ask Questions
 - a. What was the first thing Max did when he awoke this morning? *(He read the verse inside his notebook from the fireman.)*
 - b. What did Max have to do to make himself keep climbing higher and higher? *(He had to focus his thoughts on what the fireman had told him..."I am brave...)*
 - c. When Max was at the bottom of the tree looking up, he was very afraid. How did he feel when he was at the top of the tree looking down? *(Triumphant! He actually made it!)*
 - d. *Do you think Max would have climbed the tree if his friends were not there?
 - e. *Max's friends did not know he was so afraid of heights. He could have told them, but he let that peer pressure make him do something he could not do the other day - climb a tree. Was that a good thing or a bad thing?

2. In Depth Story Questions:
 - a. How is Max being proactive with his fear? How is he brave?
 - i. *He is choosing his thoughts.*
 - b. What is Max focused on as he faces his fear of heights?
 - i. *He is focused on truth.*
 - c. Is Max fearless?
 - i. *Not really. Rather, he chooses to focus on being brave*
 - d. Why is Max beginning to believe he is brave?
 - i. *He is acting on truth - his thoughts are changing his actions.*

3. Character Declaration and verse:
 - a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)

"Who is Brave?"

"I am Brave. God is bigger than my fear. I am safe in His loving hands."

2 Timothy 1:7 (NET)

"For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control."

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Wk4:

July 3-8

(Closed July 3-4)

Bravery Is Realizing What I Really SHOULD Be Afraid Of

1. Character Declaration and verse:
 - a. Ask "Who is Brave?" Brave people are not actually fearless. It is having an accurate understanding. Knowing what to fear, and what not to fear.
2. What should you be afraid of?
3. "Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who greatly delights in His commandments." -Psalms 112:1
 - a. Why is it important that we fear God?
 - i. *If we accurately understand how big God is we will have a fear of him*
 - ii. *When he gives us commands we will obey him out of fear of how powerful he is*
 - b. What is the connection between obeying out of fear and obeying out of love?
 - i. *Obeying out of fear is doing something to avoid a serious consequence.*
 - ii. *Obeying out of love is when we do something to show God we care for Him or because we are seeking His approval*
 - iii. *Both of these motivations have an appropriate place, because we will always be under God's authority.*
 - c. Why do you think we need both fear and love of God?
 - i. *As we grow to know God better and be closer to Him we will grow in obeying Him to show our love for him - but we also have times of weakness in which we can be motivated to obey out of fear of God.*
 - ii. *God is not manageable, He is far outside of our control. When we have a proper view of God we have a deep awe and fear for his magnitude and the power He wields.*
 - iii. *In the end, we only have God to fear. He is our creator, the one who holds us together, the one who will judge us, and find us innocent because we have been washed clean by Jesus' blood, or guilty and damned to separation from him and all good forever.*
 1. *Mat 10:29; Col 1:17; Heb 1:1-4; Ps 139:13; 2 Cor 5:18-19; Mat 25:41-46 All verses here: <https://goo.gl/T4FoLy> (Case sensitive)*
4. Fear of the power of sin
 - a. This is a "fear of fear" that is good to develop!
 - b. Why should we have a fear of the power of sin?
 - c. *"When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." James 1:13-15 NIV*
 - d. We should have a fear of the power of sin and temptations because they lead to death & separation from our good God.

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Wk5:
July 10-15

Story Week Pt 3: Still Not Brave Enough

1. Listen to Story & Ask Questions
 - a. Why didn't Max help the boy who was getting beaten up? (*He was afraid he would get beaten up too.*)
 - b. What did Max's dad tell him about being brave? (*Being brave is very hard, and it doesn't always end well.*)
 - c. What does Max's dad think about when he is afraid to do what he knows is right? (*God's word: "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?"*)
 - d. *Should we only be brave if we know that we will succeed in the end? Is that really bravery?
 - e. *Has your fear of others ever kept you from doing what is right like it did for Max?

2. In depth Story Questions
 - a. Why does Max feel embarrassed and guilty for not acting?
 - i. *He had the opportunity to act and be brave - but he did not. ("If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." -James 4:17 NIV)*
 - b. Is it good or bad that Max feels that way?
 - i. *It is good, he failed to be brave and act when it was in his power to do so.*
 - c. Does God desire us to be brave or fearful?
 - i. *Read 2 Timothy 1:7*
 - d. Does God give us more than we can handle?
 - i. *Yes, God gives us more than we can handle on our own in order to make us lean on Him and grow to be stronger.*
 - ii. *BUT, he will not give us more than he can handle. We are safe in his loving hands if we trust and obey him! This doesn't mean we will never be hurt (emotionally or physically); it means that God is in control, of our lives, heaven and hell. He promises everlasting life to those who trust in Jesus Christ to save them.*
 - e. Discuss a time you have failed to be brave. What do you wish you had done?

3. Character Declaration and verse
 - a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)

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Wk6:

July 17-22

Bravery Comes From Knowing How Great God Is

1. Character Declaration and verse
 - a. Ask “Who is Brave?” (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)
 2. We talked in week 4 about how powerful and great God is. Should we be afraid of God?
 - a. *Yes! But,*
 3. We shouldn't only fear God. We should also feel completely safe and secure if we are his children. Why?

“28 And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those He predestined He also called, those He called He also justified, those He justified He also glorified.

31 What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is there to condemn us? For Christ Jesus, who died, and more than that was raised to life, is at the right hand of God—and He is interceding for us. - Romans 8:28-34 BSB
 4. God is either bigger than what you fear (besides him), or not. What will you choose to believe?

“Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ... 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” - Romans 8:35-39 NLT
1. How can the verses above about God's love make you brave?

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Wk7:

July 24-29

Story Week Pt 4: Max's Second Chance

1. Listen to Story & Ask Questions
 - a. Why did Max decide to play frisbee with Tom? *(He thought he should find out what Tom and his friends were really like.)*
 - b. What happened that showed Max what Tom was really like? *(The same boy Tom had beaten up earlier crossed the field and Tom went after him again.)*
 - c. After Max asked himself, "What should I do?" what rushed into his head? *(The verses from the bible he had read over and over.)*
 - d. Max made the right choice to help the boy, but what did he receive for his brave act? *(He got kicked in the stomach, but he also felt peace in his heart.)*
 - e. *Do you want to be brave? How will you ever know for sure if you are brave? *(possible answer: You will only know if you are brave if you do what is right even though you may be afraid.)*
 - f. *What are some things that you would like to stop being afraid of? How can you be brave?

2. In Depth Story Questions
 - a. What fears does Max have to battle?
 - i. *Fear of rejection*
 - ii. *Fear of pain*
 - b. What enables Max to be brave?
 - i. The renewing of his mind as he has been memorizing his verses
 - ii. The reminder of how being afraid made him feel last time.
 - c. Is Max brave? Why?

3. Character Declaration and verse
 - a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)

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Wk8:
July 31 -
August 5

Bravery Happens When I Stand On God's Truth

1. Character Declaration and verse
 - a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)
2. A.W. Tozer said "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." This is true for all areas of our lives, but as we focus on bravery we will take a look at how our view of God affects our ability to be brave.
3. If I believe God is small, and powerless then I cannot be confident in the strength He has OR the strength He gives me.
4. If I believe what the Bible says about God, then He is great source of courage. Read the verses below and discuss the questions asked:
 - a. 1 John 4:4 " You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."
 - i. Who is God greater than? How can this make us brave?
 - b. Jeremiah 32:17 "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."
 - i. What has God made? How big is He?
 - c. Psalms 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."
 - i. When we are in trouble, who can give us strength?
5. How does your view of God need to be adjusted?

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Wk9:

August 7-12

Story Week Pt 5: Bravery in Action

1. Listen to story and discuss questions
 - a. Who has been helping Max on his journey in becoming brave so far? (*Paul, his dad, and most of all, God*)
 - b. What did Max see that no one else saw after the fire broke out? (*He saw a hand waving in the second-floor window.*)
 - c. This was the most dangerous decision Max had ever had to make. He was afraid. What helped him decide so quickly to run into the fire? (*It was clear the fire department was not going to make it in time. He had learned to fully believe God's word and now he spoke it out loud - "God did not give us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control."*)
 - d. *Max broke the teacher's command to stay where he was. Was that right or wrong?

2. In Depth Questions
3. What has caused Max to change from a timid, fearful person to a strong brave person?
 - a. *He has allowed God's words to change his thinking.*
 - i. Read Romans 12:2 "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." (NLT)
 - b. *He has chosen not only to read God's words but believe them.*
 - c. *Max has become equipped to do every good work God has for him. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*
 - d. Do you believe God's word is living and active? That it can change you? (Hebrews 4:12)

4. Character Declaration and verse
 - a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)

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Wk10:

August 14-19

Bravery Is Doing What Is Right In Spite Of My Fear (not being fearless)

1. Character Declaration and verse
 - a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)
2. If someone is never afraid, are they brave?
 - a. *Being brave means facing what you are afraid of - therefore, without fear there cannot be bravery.*
3. What allows you to face a fear and overcome it?
 - a. Thinking true thoughts: based on God's word.
 - b. Having accurate understanding of the situations you are in.
 - c. Beginning with the end in mind:
 - i. "In order to reach my goal, I must overcome this today."
 - ii. "My current pain today is worth my future growth"
 - iii. "I will be uncomfortable today so I can be strong tomorrow"

Summer 2017 CT: I Am Brave - Team

Wk11:

August 21-26

Story Week Pt 6: Max Is Brave

1. Listen to story and discuss questions
 - a. What happened to Max as he went upstairs to search for the boy? *(It was getting harder to breathe. Smoke filled his lungs, causing them to tighten and shorten each breath he tried to take.)*
 - b. What did Max realize after he heaved the boy onto his back? *(He couldn't do this alone, so he prayed: "God, please help me get him out. I can't do it.")*
 - c. Who was there to help Max when he finally crawled out? *(Paul)*
 - d. What do you think Paul saw that was so different about the notebook he had given Max many months ago? *(It was worn, it had many new bible verses, and "I am Brave. God is bigger than my fear. I am safe in His loving hands," had been written many times on the last page.)*
 - e. *When you can't do something by yourself, who do you ask for help?
 - f. *What do you think happened to Max at the end of the story?

2. In Depth Story Questions:
 - a. How has Max been transformed from fearful to brave?
 - i. *He has memorized truth and acted on it - this has allowed him to be transformed.*
 - b. How has Max's growth in bravery impacted people around him?
 - i. *The bullied boy*
 1. *How do you think Max's bravery influenced the bullied boy's fears?*
 - ii. *He saved a boy from the fire!*
 - c. How does our bravery affect those around us?
 - i. *Being brave may inspire those around us to be brave too!*
 - ii. *Being brave can give others hope.*
 - d. The story does not tell us what happens to Max in the end - but we do see that he was brave enough to risk his life to help someone else.
 - e. When you think of someone dying in order to save another person, who does this remind you of?
 - i. *Jesus - who died in our place so we could be saved from the death our sins cause and become children of God who know Him.*
 - ii. *John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."*

3. Character Declaration and verse
 - a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)

Summer 2017 CT: I Am Brave - Team

Wk12:

August 28 -

September 2

(Closed Monday
Aug. 28 for staff
training)

Bravery Cares About What Is Right More Than What Is Comfortable

1. Character Declaration and verse
 - a. Ask "Who is Brave?" (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)
2. What happened in the final story last week? (*Max saves a boy from a fire, and may have died as a result of his bravery*)
3. What example does Max remind us of? (*Max's actions remind us of Jesus, who died for our sins in order that we can know God and love Him.*)
 - a. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." - John 3:16-17*
4. Do you think it was scary for Jesus to die for us?
 - a. *The night before Jesus died he was praying to God because he was not wanting to die and be separated from God. Jesus chose to die for us though because he knew that's what God wanted him to do. Jesus was brave and died for you and me.*
5. What are some things that are uncomfortable to do, but you know are right?
 - a. *Standing up to peers (what real life example?)*
 - b. *Doing things the right way and not cheating even when no one will ever notice*
6. What is Bravery focused on?
 - a. *What is right and true*
 - b. *The needs of others*
 - c. *What the process will help you become*

Summer 2017 CT: I Am Brave - Team

Wk13:

Sept. 4-9

(Closed Monday
Sept. 4 for labor
day)

Bravery Is Growing In Me

1. Character Declaration and verse
 - Ask “Who is Brave?” (students repeat back Character Declaration, and follow it with verse)
2. What could you relate to most in Max’s story?
 - *Max’s fears*
 - *Max’s overcoming of fears*
 - *Max’s peace / joy of overcoming fears*
3. Have you grown in your ability to face things you are afraid of?
4. What has helped you grow in facing your fears?
5. What verse spoke to you most in facing your fears?
 - 2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control. (NET)
 - 1 John 4:4 “Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”
 - Ps 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?”
 - 2 Tim 3:16-17 “all scripture... so that the servant of God may be fully equipped for every good work.
 - “But now, this is what the Lord says...Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1
 - “‘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.” Isaiah 41:13-14
 - John 15:13 - “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”