

COURAGE

BIG IDEA

Courage realizes that God has given us the strength to face any situation, trial, or peril. It is the ability to react, knowing that God is in control, that He who is in me is greater than he who is against me.

MEMORY VERSE

Deuteronomy 31:6

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

LESSON

- One narrator to read the story
- One female to read Corrie’s words in italics

GAME

- No prep or materials required.

CRAFT

- Copies of decoder templates
- Brads

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



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LESSON

Everyone look at the people around you. Notice the people whose skin is darker or lighter than your own. Notice the people who are taller than you are. What would you do if an enemy came and people around you were being gathered up and killed because of the color of their skin or their size? What if it happened to your neighbors, friends and family? What if you were the “right” size and the “right” color so the enemy left you alone? Would you be willing to risk your life to save theirs?

About 70 years ago a young woman found herself in that exact situation. Her country was invaded by an enemy who rounded up and killed people based on their color and religion. Her family was safe but they had to make a hard choice. One, help the enemy round up the others and get a reward. Two, do nothing. Three, help hide their friends and family who were in danger. Corrie and her family made the risky decision to help the people around them who were in danger.

Corrie’s family lived in the middle of a city. They owned a watch shop and their home was on the second story, in the rooms above the shop. They created a secret room the size of a closet behind a false wall in Corrie’s room. Six people could fit in there if they stood very still. Corrie’s family put a button down in the watch shop with a buzzer in the house to alert everyone if an enemy soldier had entered the shop. They had only a minute to get into hiding.

Fugitives, the people in danger from the enemy, would stay with Corrie’s family for a few hours or several days and then move on to another safe house until they could ultimately get to a safe country. Corrie became the leader of a network of safe houses. She and other courageous families helped save the lives of about 800 people in their country.

One cold day in February a fellow countryman told the enemy soldiers about Corrie’s activities. The soldiers raided the home and kept it under watch. By the end of the day 35 people including Corrie’s entire family were arrested. But, the six people hidden behind the false wall were not found! They stayed cramped and quiet in that tiny space for 3 days before they were able to escape.

Here are words from brave, young Corrie about the day she was arrested.

I had been sick for several days with a bad case of the flu. The high fever made me sleepy, so I stayed in bed hoping to feel better in the morning. But I was awakened by screams and the sound of feet rushing toward my room. At first I thought it was one of the many drills we had practiced to hide the Jews who now lived with my family. But this time it was not a drill. German soldiers were raiding our home, looking for the Jewish people that they had heard we were hiding.

Instantly, I leaped from my bed to help our guests hurry into the secret space that had been built inside a wall in my room. Once they were inside, I quickly closed the hidden door to the safe place and slipped back into bed. I pretended to be fast asleep. As soon as my eyes were closed, the soldiers rushed into my room; they forced me to get out of

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LESSON (PAGE 2)

bed and get dressed. They wanted to know where the Jews were. But neither my sister nor I would tell them. We were slapped and hit by the soldiers. Blood trickled down our swollen faces, but we were willing to die rather than tell where they were. The Nazi soldiers punched holes in the walls looking for the hiding place, but they couldn't find it. My family, including my 84-year-old father, was handcuffed and forced to march into the dark night to the police station.

This is not the end of Corrie's story. Tomorrow come back to hear about the amazing things Corrie did while in prison and how God helped her with her angry heart.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is courage?
2. How did Corrie and her family have courage?
3. How else had to have courage (the Jews)?
4. Can a person be fearful and courageous (yes)?
5. How can a person have courage in a fearful situation?
6. What are some situations where you have had to have courage?

SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

Shorten the discussion questions at the beginning or end, particularly if the children come from a war-torn country.

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CRAFT & GAME

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: CREATE DECODER RINGS

Make decoder rings and write secret messages

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Copies of decoder templates
- Brads

INSTRUCTIONS

- Cut out outer and inner decoder ring circles.
- Punch a small hole in the middle of each ring using the tip of a pencil.
- Place smaller ring on top of larger ring.
- Practice writing short messages in code, trade with a friend and then decode.

GAME OPTIONS

- *Prepare some coded jokes or verses for kids to unscramble.*

• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: I AM A TREE

A fun and thoughtful improv game.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- No materials required for this game.

INSTRUCTIONS

One person starts the scene on stage saying “I am a tree.” Another person joins them, choosing something or someone to interact with the tree. They might say “I am the blue jay calling from the tree branch” and clasp the tree person’s arm. A third person then joins the first two, choosing their own related identity and action, “I am the water running beneath the roots of the tree” and lie down on the floor to wriggle beneath the tree person’s feet. At that point, the person who started the scene—here, the tree—chooses one of the others to take with her off stage (“I’ll take the water”) and they leave the third person alone on stage. That person repeats their identity (“I am the blue jay calling from the tree branch.”) and two more come on stage to find connected identities to that person. This person who was left on stage alone—this second time, the jay—now chooses one of his or her own to come off stage and the cycle begins again. Repeat as needed.

SIMPLIFIED GAME OPTIONS

- *If the group is big divide into smaller groups of 10-12*
- *One team leader can whisper ideas for kids who are young or nervous.*





