

# Be Brave

**be brave, speak out and share the Bible**

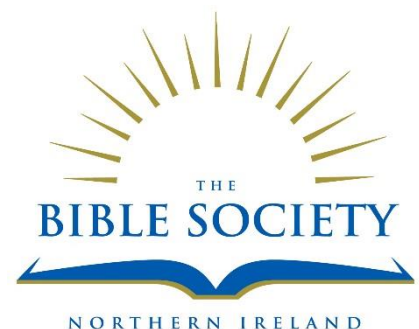
The Bible is the most amazing book. It's full of exciting stories and incredible people. It teaches us how we should live and helps us when things get difficult. But the most amazing thing about the Bible is that it's a gift that God gives us. God wants to speak to us so he gives us the Bible so we can read or listen to his words.

This gift needs to be shared. We can't keep it to ourselves. There are millions of people in the world today who don't have a Bible. They've never read the exciting stories or heard about the incredible people. Lots of people don't know that God loves them because they've never had a Bible.

These two Sunday School lessons will help you to think about how you can share the Bible with other people. We need to be brave and speak out for God. Learn about the little servant girl who was brave and spoke out for God. Discover how you can be brave as well. These lessons will teach you all about the Bible Society NI and tell you how you can be brave and share the Bible with kids in Egypt.

If you would like more information about the work of the Bible Society NI then please get in touch. We'd love to see you and your church get excited about sharing the Bible and help you find out what you can do.

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## Lesson one

Today we're going to be thinking about how we can be brave. We'll read a story about a young girl who was brave and spoke out about God. There's a great Bible verse that we can learn that will help us to remember to be brave as well. We'll also get to play games, pray and do some puzzles.

### **What's in the box?**

*What you need:*

A blindfold, a box (or bowl), different items to go into the box

*How to play:*

In this game a child will be blindfolded and asked to guess what item is in the box. No peeking! They're only allowed to use their hands to feel what it might be. Ask for volunteers and remember to explain what will happen as some children might be nervous about getting blindfolded.

There are loads of things you could put in the box. It needs to be interesting, fun, maybe a little disgusting, but not dangerous – avoid anything pointy and sharp. You could use an orange, a Lego block, a teddy bear, a bowl of jelly, baked beans, porridge and ice cubes.

When a child is blindfolded tell the other children that they aren't allowed to shout out any clues. You can encourage them to make sound effects. Noises of ewwww! and yuck! can add a lot of fun to the game.

*What does this teach us?*

Being blindfolded and told to put your hand in a box can be scary! You have no idea what is going to happen! If you play this game then you need to be brave and trust your Sunday School teacher. You need to trust that they won't blindfold you and then just leave you there by yourself! Sometimes life is scary. But we can be brave and trust God. He will never leave us.

### **Bible reading: The Brave Little Servant Girl**

Read 2 Kings 5:1-15

This is an amazing Bible story. It's all about this really strong, powerful soldier who gets cured of a disease. But there is another character in this story. She has a very small role. I wonder did you notice her? Let's go right back to the beginning of the story. We're told that Naaman was the commander of a great army but that he had a really bad skin disease. His army raided Israel – a city where lots of people followed God – and while they were there they took something. What did they take? They took a little girl and made her become the servant of Naaman's wife. This is the character I was talking about. The little servant girl. She isn't in the story for very long, in fact we don't even learn her name, but she does something really important.

One day the little servant girl is really brave and goes to speak to Naaman's wife. She tells her all about a man back in Israel called Elisha who loves God and who does amazing things for God. She tells her that if Naaman goes to Israel to see this man that he will be cured of his disease. This was such a brave thing to do. She was a servant, she was a child and she was from a different place. More than this, she followed God and the family she was working for did not. If Naaman or his wife hadn't liked what she had to say then she could have been killed! It would have taken a lot of courage for her to speak out.

And it's amazing – when she did speak out about God the people listened! Naaman went to Israel and when he met Elisha he was cured!

### **What does it mean?**

This is a great story, but what does it mean for us today? Does it teach us anything? Maybe we need to try and be a bit more like the little servant girl. She was a girl who was brave and spoke out about God. We need to do the same. Even when it's difficult or scary, even when we're saying things that other people don't believe or think is silly; we need to be brave and speak out about God.

The Bible is full of lots of stories of people being brave...

- David, who was only a shepherd boy, was brave and fought the giant Goliath
- Mary, who was just a young girl, was brave and listened to Gabriel when he told her she was going to have a baby
- Paul, who was put in prison for being a Christian, was brave and kept telling people about God
- Joshua, who began life as a slave, was brave and was used by God to lead an army to victory

What's wonderful about all these stories is that these people all loved God. It was God that made them brave. God tells us in the Bible that he will be with us wherever we go and he will help us be brave.

### **Memory verse**

Look at these words that God said to Joshua:

'Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, am with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:9

There's a big word in this verse. Does anyone know what 'discouraged' means? If someone is discouraged it means that they have no confidence.

These are great words to remember. They remind us that we don't have to be afraid or worried that we can't do something because God is always with us. God says we can be brave!

Let's try and learn this verse....

Split the verse into 6 sections

'Do not be afraid / or discouraged, / for I, the LORD your God, / am with you /  
wherever you go.' / Joshua 1:9

Write each section on a piece of paper and hide them in a box. You could use the box from the 'What's in the box?' game. This time have the box full of confetti or polystyrene balls. Get a child to put their hand in the box and find a piece of paper. Once all the bits of paper have been found ask the children to put them in order. You can now spend some time reading out the verse. Slowly take away a section at a time to help the children learn the words.

Get the children to take home **'Worksheet 1: Memory Verse'** to help them remember the verse for next week.

## Activity

**'Worksheet 2: Brave Little Servant Girl'** (this is suitable for Primary School aged children)

If you are working with older children you might like to use the following questions to start some discussions. These can be adapted to suit younger children.

1. In today's Bible Reading why was it a scary thing for the little servant girl to speak out about God?
2. Are there people in the world today who are in a similar situation to the little servant girl?
3. Imagine you are living in a refugee camp. You've had to flee from your home because Christians are being persecuted. There is a family living in the tent beside you who aren't Christians. Would you tell them about God?
4. Does the person who sits beside you in school believe in God? Is there anything you could do to help them understand what you believe in?
5. What scares you? Does learning about people in the Bible who were brave help you today?

## Prayer

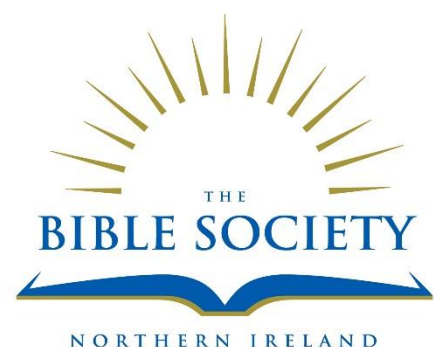
Dear God,

Thank you that you give us the Bible so we can read stories like the one about the brave little servant girl. Thank you that you teach us amazing things through the Bible. Sometimes we can feel scared and nervous about telling people about you. But you tell us that you can make us brave. Lord, help us to be brave. Thank you that you never leave us, that you are always there to help us. We want to tell so many more people about you. Please help us to be brave, speak out and share the Bible.

Amen.

## Next week...

Next week we're going to be thinking about how we can be brave and speak out about God. One great way to do this is by sharing the Bible with people. We can share the Bible with our friends and family at home and we can also share it with people in other countries. Next week we'll hear all about how the Bible Society in Northern Ireland can help you to share the Bible with children in Egypt.



## Lesson two

Last week we learnt about the 'Brave Little Servant Girl'. The story taught us that we can be brave and speak out for God. This week we're going to be thinking about how we can speak out for God. One way to do this is to share the Bible with people. We're going to learn all about the Bible Society in Northern Ireland and how they can help you to share Bibles with kids in Egypt.

### Hieroglyphics

Did you know that years and years ago in Egypt they had a funny type of alphabet? They didn't have letters, instead they had hieroglyphs. They were little pictures. It's really hard to work out what all the pictures meant but historians have come up with some ideas.

Take a look at '[Worksheet 3: Hieroglyphics](#)'. See if you can work out what phrase has been written out. Then have a go at writing your own name in hieroglyphs.

### Egypt

Hieroglyphics aren't the only interesting thing about Egypt. Let's learn some more!

Take a look at '[Worksheet 4: Egypt Fact File](#)'. See how many of these questions you can answer...

- Can you point to Egypt on the map?
- What is a pyramid?
- The Ancient Egyptians invented loads of cool things. Can anyone tell me 2 things they invented?
- Have you found the cats yet?

### Kingo

Egypt can look like a pretty cool place to be, but it can actually be a really difficult country to live in. Lots of people don't have much money. People find it hard to get jobs; children don't get to go to school and sometimes when people are sick they don't have the opportunity to go to the doctor.

It can also be a dangerous place to live. Not many people in Egypt are Christians. There are people in Egypt who don't like Christians and so sometimes they hurt them or even kill them. It can be really dangerous to speak out and tell people about God. (It sounds a wee bit similar to the story of the brave little servant girl doesn't it?)

But there are Christians in Egypt who are being brave and speaking out about God. They're sharing the Bible with as many people as they can.

There's an organisation called the Bible Society. There's one in Egypt and there's one in Northern Ireland. In fact there are about 148 Bible Societies all over the world! People who work for the Bible Society love the Bible. They believe that it is a gift that God gives us because He wants us to know His amazing story and to speak to us through the words. Because the Bible is such an amazing book they want to share it with everyone.

You can find out lots more about Bible Society NI on their website [www.bsni.co.uk](http://www.bsni.co.uk).

In Egypt the Bible Society is sharing the Bible with lots of people in lots of different ways. One way they are doing this is through a project called Kingo.

Kingo is a big friendly Bible-loving lion! Kids in Egypt watch Kingo on television as he teaches them all about God. He teaches them what the Bible is and how it can help us to live the way God wants us to. He explains what the Bible says about truth, thanksgiving, respect, patience, courage, honesty and obedience.

So many kids love Kingo that the Bible Society decided to run Kingo Festivals. These are really fun, exciting events when hundreds of kids come together to learn about God. They get to meet Kingo, play games, watch dramas, sing, hear stories, watch puppet shows and take part in quizzes.

Every child that goes along to a Kingo Festival gets given a Bible or a Bible Activity Book. This might be the first Bible they've ever had!

In a country that's beautiful and exciting, but sometimes very scary, children are having fun and learning that the Bible can help them and that they can be brave because God is with them.

Take a look at the pictures on '[Powerpoint: Kingo](#)' to see what a Kingo Festival looks like. Why not show this in church so that the adults can see what the Sunday School is learning about?

### **Seth's story**

Seth is 12 years old. His village is in a very dangerous area of Egypt. Every day kids who are Christians were getting beat up and bullied at school. People were so scared that they left their homes and moved to a different place. One day Seth went to a Kingo Festival. When he was there he heard the story about the brave little servant girl. He learnt that even if we aren't living in our own home, even if we're scared, we can and should be a light for God wherever we are. Seth was taught to be brave.

Seth was given a Bible that day. Listen to what he told us...

"I am very easy to be scared, and in many villages around our village we watched very bad news about attacking the houses. In my village, the fundamentalists started to attack our houses and they started to come closer to our house, I was very, very scared because I was hearing their shouting and the screams of our neighbours and their children. I brought my illustrated Bible I received lately from my church, and I read Jesus story of calming the sea storm to my younger sister and brother, we prayed together to stop the attacking, and it happened. They did not attack our house, they stopped when we unite together in praying, Jesus still can calm the storm."

### **Memory verse**

Do you remember the Bible verse that we started learning last week? Let me remind you...

'Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, am with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:9

Do you think we could all try and say it together? Can anyone say it by themselves? Can anyone explain what it means?

## Activity

**'Worksheet 5: Bibles for Egypt'** (this is suitable for Primary School aged children)

If you are working with older children you might like to use these questions to start some discussions. These can be adapted to suit younger children.

1. Do you have a Bible? Maybe you have more than one. What does it mean to you?
2. Do you think it is important to share the Bible with other people?
3. Imagine you are in Seth's position. If your village was being attacked and you were frightened for your life, what would you do?
4. If you were told that you could share one Bible verse with Seth what one would you choose?

## Prayer

When Seth was frightened he prayed. God answered his prayer and kept him and his sister and brother safe. God does amazing things when we pray. Let's pray for Egypt and the work that the Bible Society is doing there.

Make a prayer banner. Think about what you would like to write on it and how you would like it to look. Take a photograph of the Sunday School holding the banner and email it to the Bible Society NI ([projects@bsni.co.uk](mailto:projects@bsni.co.uk)). The photographs will be sent to the Bible Society in Egypt to encourage them that they are being prayed for here in Northern Ireland.

## What now?

It's amazing that the Bible Society in Egypt is giving the Bible to children and young people. You can help them. You can be brave, speak out and share the Bible.

Did you know that it only costs 20p to give a Bible Activity Book to a child in Egypt? That means that just £10 would give God's Word to 50 kids! Do you think you could collect that amount of money? Make a collection box to help you. Just use the template **'Worksheet 6: Collection Box'** – decorate the Egyptian pyramid, cut it out, fold it and stick it together. (This works best if the template is printed onto card. Alternatively you can print it onto paper, cut out the shape and then, before folding, stick it onto card and cut around it.) Once you've made it you can start collecting your money. Send it to Bible Society NI and help to give Bibles to kids in Egypt.

How will you be brave and speak out for God? How will you share the Bible with other people?

