

Courage is being brave enough to do what you should do, even when you're afraid.

DAY 1

Read 1 Samuel 16:7

Have you ever chosen a book to read based on its cover? Publishers, the people who make sure books get onto the shelves, work hard to make the covers of their books appealing so you'll pick them up! But some books don't live up to their cover hype. The phrase "you can't judge a book by its cover" is true because a super cool cover doesn't always mean it's a super good book.

Thankfully, God doesn't judge us based on our "covers" either. God cares about our hearts—what's on the inside. God knows our thoughts and motivations. God sees the things we're worried about and the good thoughts we think about others.

Heart Check

This week, every time you do something to "fix" your outside, like take a shower or comb your hair or get dressed, stop and ask God to help you look at what's in your heart. What are you thinking about? Are those thoughts true or false, helpful or hurtful? How's your courage? Are you trusting God? If not, ask God for help so you can do what you should even when things seem impossible.

DAY 2

Read Psalm 27:14

Doing the right thing when you're afraid is always better than doing the unwise thing because you're scared. It can be hard to stand up and do what you should when you don't know how things will turn out.

You could ask a hundred "what if" questions, but doing the right thing is always the right thing. Courageous kids are the ones who choose wisely even when they don't know what will happen. You can show courage knowing God is always with you.

Time for Courage

Write out today's verse in three phrases (see below). Tape each phrase to the face of a clock as a reminder to be strong and courageous this week.

Wait for the Lord. (Place this one at 12:00.)

Be strong. (Place this one at 4:00.)

Don't lose hope. (Place this one at 8:00.)

DAY 3

Read 1 Samuel 17:37

When David took food to his brothers on the battlefield, he was shocked to see the entire Israelite army standing there in fear, afraid to face the giant Goliath. What seemed impossible to the Israelite army (defeating this giant) seemed completely possible to David. Why? Because he remembered how God had rescued him in the past. David had confidence that God would protect him against Goliath.

Doing the right thing is easier when you do what David did. Think about how God has been with you in the past, and ask God to help you be brave right now. When you face a situation this week where you need real courage, stop and pray. Talk to God about why you're scared. Ask God to help you do what you should do, even when it feels impossible.

Courage "Rocks!"

Find a smooth rock. Write "1 Samuel 17:37" on one side and "COURAGE" on the other. Use this rock as a doorstep to remind you to have courage just like David.

DAY 4

Read 1 Corinthians 15:58

Still Like a Statue

How long can you stand perfectly still? Write down your guess, then ask a family member to time you. Compare the two times.

Estimated time: _____

Real time: _____

Paul, who wrote this letter to the church in Corinth, isn't talking about standing still like a statue. Paul wanted them to keep telling people about Jesus, to keep serving and helping and loving others. Why? Because they were doing it for God, and God would make sure their work made a difference.

Because they did, the good news about Jesus spread over miles and miles from one generation to the next. You're reading this today and worshipping at church with others because of the courage they showed thousands of years ago. But when the people in Corinth read this letter from Paul, they didn't know that. They had no idea if their work would ever matter. But they still kept doing the right thing, even when it seemed like an impossible task.

This week, when you're afraid to do the right thing, don't stand still like a statue! Stand up for God. Stand strong in what you know is true. Ask God to help you stand up for what is right even when things seem impossible!

You can do what you should even when things seem impossible.