

Sunday morning
teaching plan

Date:
24th August

Vicky Bees Series

TITLE:	Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid
THEME:	Trust in the Lord for our strength and realise Jesus is with us
AIM:	We can have courage and live boldly because Jesus is with us always

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

When Moses died, Joshua his successor needed strength and courage to continue leading the people. God tells him to "Be strong and courageous... for I am with you." The disciples too, experienced times of fear and Jesus comes to them and says "Do not be afraid for I am with you." The message is clear. When God is with us we have no need to fear what the world is throwing at us. When God leads us we can have confidence, even though everything around us might be in a mess. This should bring us comfort and provide us with courage to stand up and be bold for Jesus.

WARM UP

Test of strength! Volunteers to stand arms outstretched with Bibles on each palm. How long can you keep arms straight? Prizes for the winner.

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1

Watch video clip <https://www.bible.com/en-GB/videos/32848-joshua-1-9>

1. What things do you worry about making a mess of?
2. Who knows the situation Joshua was in when God told him to be strong and courageous?
3. Do you think God told him to *be strong and courageous* just once or several times? Why?
4. When you make mistakes in life, how do you react?
5. Read Joshua 1:9 what should we do at all times? Why?

Key teaching

We all worry about making mistakes in life but, when we are a Christian, Jesus promises to be with us, so when we do fall, we are not alone, He will help us. Joshua was about to lead the nation of Israel into the promised land. They would have to fight to take control. It was a scary time. Anything could go wrong! God repeats the message because He knows our fear will creep back, especially when we get things wrong or life gets really tough! When Joshua made mistakes he went to God and sought forgiveness and help. God reminded him that He was with him and he had no need to fear. We too can do the same. We can always go to the Lord in prayer and remember that He is with us.

Activity 2

READ Matthew 14:22-33 or watch cheesy video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CElk8DWCXg>

1. What made the disciples afraid?
2. Why were they initially frightened of Jesus?
3. What happened when Peter trusted Jesus?
4. What happened when he doubted?
5. What are the storms in our lives? How might trusting in Jesus help us deal with them?
6. Should we ever be fearful of difficult times? Why?

Key teaching point: We have no need to fear Jesus is with us, even in the storms

Most of the disciples were used to being in a boat as they were fishermen. This storm must have been very fierce for them to be afraid! They were not expecting Jesus to show up in the middle of the stormy lake. They thought they were alone! When we place our trust in Jesus, we can ride out the storms in our lives, we can step out in faith and walk! However, when we doubt that He is able to help us we start to sink! Faith in Jesus' power to rescue, to be with us and guide us is essential. We will all go through storms in life such as tough times at school, exams, family problems, sickness and sadly losing loved ones. But Jesus walks with us through them if we put our faith in Him. Sometimes we don't think Jesus will be with us in difficult times, we feel alone. Jesus has said, "I will never leave you, I will never forsake you."

Activity 3.

Using Play Doh, make a model of the scene where Jesus and Peter walk on water. Prizes for the best!

TAKEAWAY

Sticker... Be strong and courageous!

EXTRA INFORMATION