

# Fearless

**Bible Story:** Fearless (Ananias Helps Paul) • *Acts 9:10-31*

**Bottom Line:** Knowing Jesus can help you face your fears.

**Memory Verse:** *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.*  
Hebrews 11:1 (*NirV*)

**Life App:** Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for the kids who might be struggling through tough circumstances at home. Ask God to give them comfort and hope through the knowledge that He is always with them and He is ready to help them face whatever lies in front of them. Pray for wisdom about how to help those kids navigate their circumstances. For those who aren't currently struggling, ask God to plant seeds of encouragement in their hearts that they can refer back to when they do go through hard times.*

### **1. Early Arriver**

*Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** Play-Doh®

#### **What You Do:**

- Give each kid some Play-Doh.
- Instruct kids to create something that shows the scariest thing they've ever done.
  - Some suggestions are taking a test, performing on stage, making a new friend, giving a speech at school, or trying something for the first time.
  - For the more concrete kids, help them come up with an object they can sculpt that represents their experience.
- As they finish, invite kids to share what they created. Ask them what helped them be brave and conquer that scary thing.

## 2. Fear Factor

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Large sheet of paper, markers, timer

### What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Teams will take turns sending a player to the front of the group to draw something people might fear.
- If the team guesses correctly within 30 seconds, they earn two points.
- If they don't, the other team can guess and earn one point.
- Then it's the next team's turn to have one player draw a clue.
- Choose a team to start and let them choose who gets to go first.
  - Some suggestions for clues include: thunder, spiders, dark, small spaces, reading or speaking in front of a crowd, different animals, heights, water, clowns, storms.
  - Make sure to approve their choices before they start their turn, but you can let kids choose their own clues if you'd like to.

### What You Say:

"We all have fears! The Bible is full of stories of people who faced situations that scared them.

**[Transition] Let's go hear a story of two people who did something even though they were probably very scared."**

## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

### 1. In Cahoots

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** "Multiple Choices" Activity Page, index cards, and pencils

### What You Do:

- Instruct kids to find a partner.
- Give each team three index cards and a pencil.
  - Ask each team to write 'A' on one card, 'B' on the next, and 'C' on the last one.
- Tell them that you will ask a multiple-choice question and give them three possible answers.
- Together, each team must decide on the correct answer (either a, b, or c) and hold up the corresponding index card before the timer goes off.
- Award one point for every team that answers the question correctly.
- The goal is for all teams to answer the questions correctly so the group, as a whole, wins.
  - There are ten questions total, so before the game starts, determine what qualifies as a "win" based on how many teams you have.
  - For instance, if you have three teams, that means there are 30 total points that the group could earn. So, a "win" would be 23 combined points, or about 75% correct answers.

**What You Say:**

“Everyone is afraid at times. At some point, you will face situations that cause you to fear. Even people who believe in Jesus and have a lot of faith in Him struggle with fears. God helped Ananias face his fears just like He wants to help you face your fears. He’s been helping people through impossible situations from the very beginning, and He’ll help you, too. You can trust Him to be with you because you have proof through real-life stories that He has been—and continues to be—faithful to those who trust Him. **[Bottom Line] Knowing Jesus can help you face your fears.**”

**\*2. Facing Fears****[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** Galloon-size plastic, zipper-top bag; water; skewers or sharpened pencils; container

**What You Do:**

- Place skewers or sharpened pencils on the table.
- Fill the plastic bag with water and tightly seal it.
- Invite kids to sit around you.
- Ask kids what they think would happen if you pushed a skewer or pencil through the bag.
- As everyone braces themselves for water to go everywhere, hold the bag over a container and pierce through bag (straight to the other side) with the skewer or sharp pencil.
- As you continue to hold the bag, invite the kids to take turns sharing a fear they might have then piercing the bag.
- *(NOTE: Make sure to keep the bag over the container, just in case. If the bag isn’t pierced swiftly enough, the plastic won’t form a seal around the skewer and water will leak out.)*
- As the kids share their fear, offer an idea about how Jesus can help them face that fear. (For example, if the fear is playing in their piano recital, Jesus wants them to do a good job and will help them be brave as they play their music.)
- *Tips:*
  - *In order for the experiment to have as much of an impact as possible, do not remove the skewers in front of the kids when you’re finished.*
  - *Before doing this experiment, ask kids who have already seen this experiment to not give it away.*
  - *Consider practicing this at home before attempting it in front of the group.*
  - *If you’re using pencils, make sure they are sharpened to a fine point.*

**What You Say:**

“Just like it’s hard to understand why the bag didn’t leak, it’s hard to understand how Jesus can help you face your fears. You’ve never seen Him. You might not feel like you know Him. But He is powerful. He sees all things and understands when you’re scared. You don’t always understand how God works, and that’s okay. Nobody does! **[Bottom Line] Knowing Jesus can help you face your fears.** The next time you’re afraid to tell the truth, or give a speech, or take a test, remember that Jesus is with you and wants to help you face your fears.” **[Make it Personal] (Share a story of a time when you were afraid to do something and how your trust and faith in Jesus gave you the courage to overcome your fear to do what you needed to do.)**

### 3. Fears in a Hat

#### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Hat, index card, pencils, music

#### What You Do:

- Give each kid an index card and a pencil.
- Ask the kids to write down one fear that they have. These can be things that were shared in previous activities.
- Encourage them to fold the paper and place it in a hat.
- Instruct the kids to pass the hat around as you play music.
- When the music stops, the kid holding the hat pulls out a fear and reads it to the group.
- The group responds by saying the verse.
- Then the music and hat-passing start again.
- Continue until you've gotten through most of the fears.

#### What You Say:

"This activity was a great reminder that all of us struggle with fears. Some of you even have the same fears. Today's story, as well as this month's verse, are great reminders to put your hope in Jesus when you're scared. You may not understand it or see immediate results, but faith in Jesus produces strength and courage to face any situation. **[Bottom Line] Knowing Jesus can help you face your fears.**"

### Pray and Dismiss

#### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** "Fear notes" from "Fears in a Hat" activity

#### What You Do:

- Gather the kids and place the fear notes in the center.
- Give kids a moment to pray silently that God will give them practical ways to face their fears.
- Encourage them to also pray for their friends around the circle and to thank God for giving them this group of people to have fun and learn about God with.
- Close with group prayer.

#### What You Say:

"Heavenly Father, You know everything about us. You knew what our fears were even before we voiced them. You know when we face situations that make us nervous or when we're scared how things will turn out. Help us to believe that Jesus is with us, just as He was with Ananias and Barnabas. Grow our faith so we can trust that the Holy Spirit is our helper and is always with us, helping us face whatever we fear. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."