
GUTS AND GLORY

UNIT OVERVIEW

It is extremely difficult for a preteen in today's society to stand firm and convicted in their faith. Cheating, lying, disrespect, violence and ingratitude are tolerated with the attitude that there is nothing that can be done about it. Your preteen students face daily peer pressure to join the crowd and to be "cool," regardless of the consequences of these sins to themselves or to others.

In this unit your students will learn about several Old Testament men and women who would not be swayed by the world. Through the lives of Elijah, Deborah, Caleb and Abigail, your students will realize that true greatness is achieved in standing up for one's convictions, and that our faith and trust in God's power is the greatest strength we could ever hope to attain. The lessons and challenges of this unit will instill a faith that will help your students stand against the crowd, as well as grow in their confidence and courage.

UNIT GOALS

- The student will understand the courage required to follow God.
- The student will learn to trust God in difficult circumstances.
- The student will recognize the benefits and blessings that accompany standing up for God.

UNIT CONTENTS

LESSON 1 COURAGE TO FOLLOW

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

1 KINGS 18:21

The word courage can have different meanings for different people. An action that is ordinary for one person may be considered an act of courage for another. In this lesson, we will focus on the prophet Elijah and the lessons we can learn about the type of courage it takes to follow God on a daily basis.

LESSON 2 DEALING WITH FEAR

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Everyone experiences fear from time to time. Sometimes our fears can overtake us, and leave us feeling weak and ineffective. In this lesson, we again focus on the prophet Elijah as he deals with his fear of Jezebel. It is a lesson on defying fear by relying totally on God and trusting in his promises.

LESSON 3 CONVICTION

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

JUDGES 5:31

As disciples, our convictions need to be solid and deep, providing a basis for our lives that allows us to stand firm in the face of difficulties and discouragement. In this lesson, we will see how Deborah's convictions allowed her to lead her people to a great victory against Sisera and the Canaanite army.

LESSON 4 AGAINST THE CROWD

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

NUMBERS 14:24

Even as members of God's great and glorious family, we may feel alone in our convictions. With that feeling may come the temptation to back down and to weaken in our faith. The story of Caleb is a great lesson in how God rewards our faithfulness to defy the crowd and stand firm in our convictions.

LESSON 5 HELPING ONE ANOTHER

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 12:21

As disciples, we understand the need to see and deal with our sin in a serious way. However, we may not have the same conviction about the sin in the lives of those around us. We may feel that it is out of our area of influence, or we may be afraid to speak out about what we see. In this lesson, we see that because of Abigail's convictions, she refused to let sin command the situation around her. She was bold in helping David to choose not to sin, but rather, to do what would please God.

Unit 2 at a Glance



Preteens



Preteens

Dear Parent,

On the reverse side of this page you will find an outline and description of the lessons which comprise this unit. The weekly scripture memory verse is listed with each lesson synopsis.

As part of the class experience, students are given a weekly challenge. Below is a list of the challenges given with the lessons:

LESSON 1 COURAGE TO FOLLOW

Weekly Challenge: You are to demonstrate in your life the aspect of courage written on the index card that you chose. Be in touch with someone in your class to encourage them with their challenge this week and to share how you are doing with yours.

LESSON 2 DEALING WITH FEAR

Weekly Challenge: Interview a disciple (preferably not a parent) by asking the questions on the take-home sheet. Fill out the questionnaire and bring it to the next class meeting.

LESSON 3 CONVICTION

Weekly Challenge: Follow through with the commitment to put into practice this week the conviction written on the card that you chose.

LESSON 4 AGAINST THE CROWD

Weekly Challenge: Wear your "Ask Me" badge to school or to some other activity. When someone asks you why you have it on, tell them either about your church, your class at church or about your relationship with God.

LESSON 5 HELPING ONE ANOTHER

Weekly Challenge: Keep a journal about how you help other people to be their best this week.

Each preteen is to have a quiet time journal published by DPI. Each day's study will reinforce the topics being taught on Sundays and midweeks, and should be completed in ten to fifteen minutes.

Your active involvement outside the classroom is essential and will truly make the Kingdom Kids curriculum a great success for your child. Here are some suggested ways for you to reinforce these lessons at home:

- Share with your child experiences in your life when you have stood up for your convictions even though you were afraid.
- Review the memory verse before bedtime, at dinner or while riding in the car.
- Have quiet times with your child or ask what he or she is learning in daily times guided by the quiet time journal.
- While eating dinner, talk about something that your child really enjoyed about Bible class this week.
- Ask your child to share with you how he or she is doing with the weekly challenge. Give encouragement or direction as needed.
- Have a family devotional using the memory verse (or parallel verses) for the week.
- Allow your child to share with younger siblings what he or she is learning in class.

We look forward to being partners with you as we help Generation Next to be zealous and effective as they move forward the kingdom of our God.

Thank you,

Your child's teachers