

Trusting God in a New Journey



BIG IDEA

God can use us wherever He places us, even when it's not where we expected or wanted to be.



LEADER GOAL

Help students understand that God often works through unexpected situations to accomplish His purposes. Encourage students to trust God when life doesn't go according to their plans and introduce praying for others as a practical way to share God's love.



BEFORE STUDENTS ARRIVE

- Review Jonah and 1 Timothy 2:1.
- Prepare to discuss trusting God in unexpected situations and praying for others.



WELCOME + CONNECT

Reconnect and invite students to share about last week's prayer challenge.

LEADER SAYS

"Welcome back, everyone!"

Last week, your challenge was to be honest with God in prayer. Did anyone try that this week? What was it like to tell God what was really on your heart?"

(Allow students to share. Encourage every response, whether they prayed often, once, or found it difficult.)

"Prayer is something we continue growing in throughout our lives. Today we're going to discover another way prayer can make a difference—not just in our own lives, but in the lives of other people too."



LIVE SPARK

GOD CAN USE ME WHEREVER I AM

GRAB

A postcard or card stamped “YOU ARE HERE.”

IDEA

We do not need a perfect place, special title, or big moment for God to use us. We can notice one person and begin with one small act of care right where we are.

SPARK

God can use me wherever I am.



DO / SAY

[Hold up the “YOU ARE HERE” postcard and look at it.]

“Apparently... I am here.”

[Look around the room.]

“That is a little disappointing. I thought doing something really meaningful might require somewhere more impressive.”

“Maybe a big stage. A special title. Somewhere everyone notices you.”

[Pause.]

“But what if something meaningful is already right in front of me?”

[Notice a simple nearby need - a dropped pencil, a chair that needs moving, or something that can be helped with quickly.]

“I almost missed that because I was looking for something bigger.”

“Dorothy did not choose to end up in Oz. She wanted to go home. But even in a place she never expected, she still had opportunities to notice people, receive help, and help others.”

“Sometimes we think God can use us later - when we are older, more confident, or somewhere more important.”

“But we can begin right where we are.”

“We can encourage one person. Help one person. Pray for one person.”

[Point to the postcard.]

“That is our Spark this week: GOD CAN USE ME WHEREVER I AM.”

“So here is something to think about: Who is one person you could notice, pray for, or encourage today? Let’s get started.”

THEN Move directly into “The Ruby Slippers - Trusting God in a New Journey.”



STORY CONNECTION

THE RUBY SLIPPERS — TRUSTING GOD IN A NEW JOURNEY

LEADER SAYS

“When Dorothy arrived in Oz, she suddenly found herself wearing the ruby slippers.

She didn't ask for them. She wasn't looking for them. In fact, all Dorothy wanted was to go home to Kansas. Instead, she found herself on a journey she never expected.

Have you ever had to do something you really didn't want to do?”

Maybe you had to move schools. Maybe you had to work with people you didn't choose. Maybe you had chores to do instead of playing. Maybe you had to include someone when you wanted to spend time with just your close friends.

Sometimes life takes us places we wouldn't have chosen.

The Bible tells us about a man named Jonah who had a similar experience.

God asked Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and tell the people there about Him.

But Jonah didn't want to go. Instead of obeying God, Jonah tried to run away.

Eventually, after quite an adventure, Jonah did go to Nineveh.

When he shared God's message, the people listened, and many of them turned back to God.



STORY CONNECTION

Jonah learned that even though he hadn't wanted to be there, God could still use him to make a difference.

Sometimes God places us in situations we wouldn't choose. That doesn't mean those situations are easy. But it does mean God can work through us wherever we are.

Maybe God wants to use you to encourage someone sitting alone. Maybe He wants to help you show kindness to someone who feels left out. Maybe He wants you to be patient when you'd rather complain.

Or maybe He wants you to pray for someone who is having a difficult week.

Wherever God places us, He invites us to reflect His love to the people around us.

We may not always understand why we're where we are, but we can trust that God is able to use us in meaningful ways.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

What do Jonah and Dorothy have in common?

2

Can you think of a time when you had to do something you didn't want to do?

3

Why do you think God asks us to love others, even when it's difficult?

4

Have you ever seen someone show kindness in an unexpected situation?

5

How do you think praying for others changes both them and us?



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

PRAYER — PRAYING FOR OTHERS

“For the last few weeks, we’ve been learning about prayer. Who remembers some of the things we’ve talked about?”

(Allow students to answer.)

“We’ve learned that prayer is talking with God. We’ve learned that we can be completely honest with Him.

Today we’re learning something else. Prayer isn’t only about our own lives. We can also pray for other people.

Have you ever had someone tell you, ‘I’ll be praying for you’? That can be really encouraging because it reminds us that we’re not facing life alone.

When we pray for someone else, we’re asking God to help, encourage, comfort, guide, or protect them.

Maybe someone is sick. Maybe a friend is having a hard time. Maybe someone in your family is stressed. Maybe a teacher is carrying a lot of responsibility. Maybe someone simply needs to know they’re loved.

The Bible encourages us to pray for people like this. It says:

‘First of all, I ask you to pray for everyone. Ask God to help and bless them all, and tell God how thankful you are for each of them.’ 1 Timothy 2:1

Praying for others is one way we can show God’s love. When we pray, we can ask God to give people wisdom, bring comfort when they’re hurting, provide healing when they’re sick, give them strength when life is difficult, remind them that they are loved, and help them grow closer to Him.

Sometimes we may never know exactly how God answers our prayers. But praying for others changes us too. It helps us become more caring, compassionate, and aware of the needs of people around us.

Instead of only thinking about ourselves, prayer teaches us to love our neighbours the way Jesus does.”



STUDENT REFLECTION

PROMPT Why do you think praying for others is an important way to care for them?



THIS WEEK - YOUR CHALLENGE!

"This week, your challenge is to pray for someone else every day. Choose one person—a friend, family member, teacher, neighbour, or someone else—and spend a few moments asking God to bless, encourage, and care for them."



CLOSING PRAYER

"Let's pray together.

Dear God,

Thank You for bringing us together today. Thank You that even when life doesn't go the way we planned, You are still with us and can work through us wherever You place us.

Help us trust You in unexpected situations, just as You worked through Jonah and as Dorothy continued her journey through Oz.

Thank You for the gift of prayer. Teach us not only to bring our own needs to You, but also to care for others by praying for them.

Please help us become people who encourage, support, and love those around us, pointing them toward Your kindness.

Thank You for this group and for everything You're teaching us this year.

Amen."

Connection Activities

SUPPLIES

- Gold or yellow cardstock (cut into circle)
- Hole punch
- ribbon/yarn (18-24 inches per student)
- Markers and crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors



ACTIVITY 1 | MIRROR MOVEMENT

- Have students spread out, facing the leader (or a student can be the game leader)
- The leader begins moving (raising arms, facial expressions, walking etc.)
- Can incorporate actions from Wizard of Oz characters
- Students try to mirror the leader
- Let students take turns being the leader



ACTIVITY 2 | CRAFT: COURAGE MEDALS

Supplies:

- Gold or yellow cardstock (cut into circle)
- Hole punch
- ribbon/yarn (18-24 inches per student)
- Markers and crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Give each student a gold cardstock medal.
2. At the top of the medal, write "Courage Medal".
3. Decorate the medal with pictures that remind you of courage.
4. Punch a hole at the top of the medal.
5. Thread the ribbon or yarn through the hole and tie the ends together so it can be worn around the neck.
6. Wear your Courage Medal as a reminder that, just like the Cowardly Lion discovered, true courage comes from trusting God—even when we feel scared.