

## WEEK 3

### LESSON GUIDE

## ONE STEP

### BIG IDEA

Take a big step — the Holy Spirit makes us brave.

### BIBLE

**Stephen Before the Sanhedrin:** Acts 6, 7:54–59

Heroes meet in the Youth Room for worship.

### WELCOME TIME

#### ACTIVITY | Glowing Stars Search

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Hide glow-in-the-dark stickers or stars drawn on paper with glow-in-the-dark paint around the room. Turn off the lights and ask each child to find three or four stars before the time is up. Play several rounds. You can split the children into two groups and have one group hide the stars while the other group finds them, then flip roles.*
- How did you like finding the stars in the dark?
- Was it a little scary playing in the dark?
- Did you need a little help from your friends or teachers to find the stars?
- Sometimes we all feel a little scared and need a helper. In today's Bible story, we will learn about a very special helper, sent from God, to make us brave.

### STORY TIME

#### SCRIPTURE | Acts 6; 7:54–59 (Stephen Before the Sanhedrin)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather the children into a circle. You can dim the lights and turn on a galaxy projector or consider dressing up as an astronaut to be a storyteller in space.*
- Greetings, space explorers! Let's launch into our next story.
- This Scripture tells the story of when the Holy Spirit helped followers of Jesus make brave choices.
  - Who can tell me what it means to be brave?
  - That's right. Being brave means doing something even when you're feeling scared. Maybe it's sleeping in your own bed at night, going to a new school, or inviting a friend to church.
- For the rest of our story time, let's stand with a "brave pose" (hands on hips, with a fist in the air or flexing your arms) every time you hear the word "brave."
- The disciples probably felt scared by the big mission Jesus gave them. They had to go tell everyone about Jesus.
  - What if they didn't know what to say?

- What if people laughed at them?
- But then, Jesus really did send the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit appeared like fire and wind. The Holy Spirit from God helped them be **brave**.
- Like Stephen. Stephen was helping spread the good news about Jesus. But one day, he was unfairly arrested and taken to stand before a group of religious leaders called the Sanhedrin. These leaders did not like Stephen's message about Jesus.
- Even though everyone was against Stephen, he wasn't afraid. He was **brave** because he was filled with the Holy Spirit. So he spoke boldly about Jesus.
- Many other disciples faced angry leaders and dangers like Stephen did. But they were all **brave** because the Holy Spirit was with them.
- Did you know that even today, so many years later, the Holy Spirit is with us, too? We can be **brave** because the Holy Spirit helps us.

**BIG IDEA** | Take a big step — the Holy Spirit makes us brave.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write each word of the Big Idea on a piece of black poster board in glow-in-the-dark paint. Hide them around the room and turn off the lights. Let the kids search for the words. Once they find all of the words, lay the words out in a row on the ground. Have the kids step word to word while saying them aloud with you. Then have them all say it again with these hand motions:
  - **Take a** (Raise up one foot.)
  - **Big step** (Take a giant step with the same foot.)
  - **The Holy Spirit** ([This sign](#) for "Holy Spirit.")
  - **Makes us brave** (Put hands on hips.)

**VIDEO** | One Small Step, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

**ACTIVITY** | Mission Control And Astronauts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Partner the children up. Blindfold one child to be the "Astronaut." The other child will be "Mission Control." Scatter a few inflatable balls on the floor. "Mission Control" needs to help their "Astronaut" navigate (by holding their hands or giving verbal instructions) around the room to find and pick up one planet (ball). It may be easier only to have two pairs go at a time. Once the "Astronaut" finds their planet, "Mission Control" must help them navigate back to the rocket ship (sitting area).
- It takes a whole team for astronauts to go into space. All of the scientists, engineers, and other experts who stay on Earth to help are called Mission Control.
- Did you feel a little scared while walking around blindfolded?
- Did you feel less scared knowing that your partner was watching out for you?
- We trusted in our partner to help us . . . just like we can trust in the Holy Spirit to help us.
- Take a big step — the Holy Spirit makes us brave.

**PRAYER**

- Dear God, thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit. We can follow you always because the Holy Spirit makes us brave. Amen.

**SHARING TIME**

**ACTIVITY** | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite the children to sit in a circle. Allow them to toss a "[rocket ship](#)" (Nerf football) or roll a planet (jelly ball) to one another. The person who catches it can answer the question.
- Who did Jesus promise to send to help the disciples? *The Holy Spirit.*
- What was the name of the follower of Jesus who was brave in today's story? *Stephen.*
- What were the followers of Jesus able to do because of the Holy Spirit? *Be brave and tell others about Jesus.*
- Let's go over all the steps we have learned so far:
  - We can take the first step . . . *believe in Jesus.*
  - Then we can take another step . . . *pray for others.*
  - Now we can take a big step because the Holy Spirit makes us . . . *brave.*

**MEMORY VERSE** | Psalm 19:1 (NIV)

- "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Say the memory verse aloud for the kids. Recite the first half and have them recite the second half. Then ask the kids to recite the first half as you recite the second half.
  - *The heavens* (Sweep your arms over your head to the right.)
  - *Declare* (Cup hands to mouth.)
  - *The glory of God* (Hands spread out and gesture up into the sky.)
  - *The skies* (Sweep your arms over your head to the left.)
  - *Proclaim* (Cup hands to mouth.)
  - *The work of his hands* (Hold up both hands and wave them.)

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**PLAY TIME**

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**ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the [coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.