

Courage - a whole school assembly outline

Key Bible passage: 1 Samuel 17 David and Goliath

Aim: to help children to choose to be courageous and do the right thing, not the easy thing

1 Have a box with a lid. Make a big show of wondering what's inside it. Be very scared. Each time you go to open it, you imagine it might be a spider or a monster or a poisonous snake or a bomb or something hideous lying in wait quietly to grab you by the throat as soon as the lid opens...

Say: But I've got a choice, haven't I? I can choose to leave the box shut - that would be easy - or I can choose to open it - that would be hard.

End up not daring to open the box but putting it on one side.

Ask if anyone has ever felt scared of something. Get some ideas - be sensitive as fears are very real. Perhaps you could talk about something you were scared of when you were little.

Say: If I want to open the box but I daren't, I need a bit of courage to help me do what I want to do. I need something to make me a bit braver. Perhaps a story might help me be brave.

2 Tell the story of David and Goliath. There are so many versions around, it doesn't need retelling here.

3 So David was very small, but when he was faced with a big danger, he chose to be brave and do the right thing, not the easy thing. He didn't choose to run away from it. Perhaps when we're faced with something dangerous or painful, we can remember David and Goliath and the way God helped David to do something wonderful - all David had to do was be a little bit brave.

(You may want to add something about how to deal with bullies - that bravery might mean telling a teacher rather than actually confronting the bully every time)

4 Return to your box. Say: I can choose not leave the box shut, which doesn't take any courage at all. Or I can choose to open it, which means I need to have a bit of courage. What do you think I should do?

End up being brave enough to open the box and find something nice inside: a bar of chocolate would be very pleasant. Say: thanks to my bravery, the staffroom now has a nice bar of chocolate to share at playtime.

5 A prayer:

Lord, help us to be courageous when we are faced with danger or pain. Help us to be brave enough to do the right thing, not the easy thing. Help us to choose the way you want us to choose. Amen.

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