

Courage (Grades 3-5)

For PurposeFull Families

EXPLANATION:

As a school family this month, we are delving into the value of Courage by examining how it looks, sounds, and feels. We want to help our children be courageous and learn to conquer things that frighten or scare them. Children need reassurance that fear is one of our feelings and to remind them that it's okay to be scared and to feel afraid. The definition they are learning this month for Courage is:

Courage is to choose what is good, right, and kind even when it is hard or scary.

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- When we talk about tackling things that frighten or scare us, it's important that we validate fear as one of the many feelings that we experience. Talk with your child about what scared you as you were growing up. Maybe it's a fear of the dark? Or heights? Maybe it's a fear of snakes? Maybe it's a fear of not meeting someone's expectations? How did you overcome those fears and/or show Courage in the face of those fears?
- What scares you today as a parent or guardian? How about as an adult? How do you muster the Courage to be brave despite those fears?
- Share a story about a time that you overcame a fear or practiced Courage. What or who helped you? How did you feel before, during and after? What did you learn from the experience? How did it change you?

QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK:

- What does Courage mean to you? Do you see yourself as courageous? Why or why not?
- Talk about a time that you've needed to show Courage. What was that experience like?
- Talk about a time when you've witnessed Courage. How did that feel? What did it look like?
- When have you wished for more Courage?
- Who is your role model or example of Courage? Why?

APPLICATION:

Books:

- [*Unspoken*](#) by Henry Cole
- [*Gifts from the Enemy*](#) by Trudy Ludwig
- [*The Girl With A Mind For Math*](#) by Julia Finley Mosca
- [*Ron's Big Mission*](#) by Rose J. Blue
- [*New Shoes*](#) by Susan Lynn Myer
- [*Esperanza Rising*](#) by Pam Munoz Ryan
- [*Brown Girl Dreaming*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson
- [*The Sign of the Beaver*](#) by Elizabeth George Speare
- [*Mouse of My Heart*](#) by Margaret Wise Brown

FOR YOUR READING:

- [*9 Ways to Cultivate Courage in Kids*](#) by parenting expert Dr. Michele Borba

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ACTIVITY:

Talk about this quote around the dinner table and share what it means to you.

“Courage is the commitment to begin without any guarantee of success” -Goethe

After dinner, make a Vision Board collage with pictures, drawings, symbols and words that represent things you'd be willing to step out in Courage to try.

PURPOSEFULL PURSUITS:

New Recipe, New Friend

Work together in the kitchen to try a new recipe, then step out in Courage by delivering it to a neighbor that you haven't met yet.

Toughness: 2

Time: 1

Type: Partner

Courage Over Challenges

Brainstorm with your child things you both would've liked to do, but find intimidating. Maybe it's a new hobby, sharing your art or invention with others, or going on an adventure somewhere. Go out there and give it a try, then take a selfie to capture the memory!

Toughness: 3

Time: 2

Type: Partner

Search for Courage

Talk with your children about people who have shown Courage in real life. Look for courageous examples in your family, local community, and in the world. Brainstorm ways that you can acknowledge someone who has shown Courage. For example, perhaps you can take cookies to a local law enforcement office. Maybe you can mail a thank you card to someone who is serving in the armed forces. You could even take a trip to the local library to research someone in our world who has shown Courage and bravery. By pointing out acts of Courage, your children can see practical examples of the trait!

Toughness: 2

Time: 2

Type: Group

Courage Celebration Ceremony

What's something that continues to scare you, but you were willing to do it anyway? Yay YOU. Share a time that you stepped out in courage this week as you gather around the dinner table for a Courage Celebration Ceremony. Explain not only what you did, but how it felt before and after. Then let your family encourage you and cheer you on. Decide on a monthly routine where you have a Courage Celebration Ceremony for someone who did something bold and include some fun additions like dessert or balloons or a silly certificate of Courage.

Toughness: 3

Time: 1

Type: Group