



Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land

Numbers 13:1–14:23

Most young children are easily persuaded to participate in activities they've been taught are wrong, like calling others names. Kids this age are just beginning to understand what it means to stand up for what's right. It will take a lot of courage for kids to decide to do what's right. Kids can face difficulty with bravery as well as being brave in doing what's right. Use this lesson to let children know that God is pleased when we are brave enough to do what's right.



► Bible Point

Be brave for God.

Key Verse

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

Weaving Faith Into Life


Children will be brave for God when they do what's right.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcoming Song</p> <p>Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.</p>	<p>CD player</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Going With God</p> <p>Make necklaces, and play a game to remember the Key Verse.</p>	<p>Bible, markers, hole punch, several pairs of scissors, 16-inch length of yarn per child, 1 copy per child of the "Heart for God" handout (at the end of this lesson)</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Theo's News</p> <p>Find out what a fake bug has to do with the Bible.</p>	<p>Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, fake bug</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Place the fake bug in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: 007</p> <p>Pretend to be secret spies, and learn the Bible passage.</p>	<p>Bible</p>	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Spying for God Use paint to make clusters of grapes like the good fruit Joshua and Caleb found.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers, unsharpened pencils, purple tempera paint, bowls	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Standing Firm Snacks Make grape people, and have the people stand firm for God.</p>	grapes, 4 toothpicks per child, baby carrots, cheese cubes, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: A Giant Feast Look at pictures, and use modeling dough to make giant fruits and vegetables.</p>	modeling dough Teacher Pack: "Fruits and Veggies" cards, interlocking people 	
	<p>Center 4: Please Stand Up, Please Stand Up Make paper dolls, and use them for an object lesson.</p>	paper, several pairs of scissors, markers, coins, 1 copy per child of the "Paper Doll" handout (at the end of this lesson)	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>"Be Brave" Prayer Have kids stand up as they pray for bravery.</p>	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome!"

(track 20), "Wherever
You Go" (Joshua 1:9)

(track 5)

1 GETTING STARTED


Welcoming Song



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "Welcome!" (track 20 on the CD) to the tune of "Camptown Races."

 **Welcome to God's house today.** (*partners link elbows and skip in a circle*)

Hello! Howdy! (*wave to partner*)

Welcome to God's house today. (*partners link elbows and skip in a circle*)

Won'tcha come right in? (*use hand to motion "come here"*)

Gonna sing and play. (*cup hands around mouth and sing loudly*)


Gonna learn and pray. (*fold hands in prayer*)

Welcome to God's house today. (*partners link elbows and skip in a circle*)

Everyone say, "Hey!"

Hey! (*partners give high fives*)

Say: **I'm so glad you're all here. Today we'll learn about what we can do in hard or scary situations and that we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. Let's sing a song about how God is with us everywhere we go.** Lead children in doing the motions and singing "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 5 on the CD).

 **Have I not commanded you?** (*shrug shoulders as if asking a question*)

Be strong and courageous. (*flex muscles*)

Do not be terrified; (*pretend to hide*)

Do not be discouraged, (*make happy faces*)

For the Lord your God will be with you (*pretend to hold God's hand*)

Wherever you go. (*march around*)

Wherever you go. (*march around*)

(Repeat twice.)

Wherever you go. (*march around*)

Wherever you go. (*march around*)

Wherever you go. (*march around*)

"Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



Say: **God loves us and knows that we need help when we're scared. We can do what's right if we choose to ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. God's with us all the time, and he can help us be brave. Let's learn how our Key Verse can help us trust God when things aren't easy.**



2

**KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY**

Going With God

What You'll Do

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Joshua 1:9, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Joshua 1:9, says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." That means we can be brave no matter what because God is with us. It makes God happy when we're brave for him. Let's practice our Key Verse together.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **"God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).**

Let's play a game to help us remember that God is always with us in our hearts.

Give each child a "Heart for God" handout and a length of yarn. Help kids cut out the hearts and then draw pictures inside the hearts of themselves with God. Punch a hole in the top of the hearts, and have children thread the yarn through the hole and tie a knot in the end, forming a necklace. Then have children put on their necklaces.

With children following, walk to another spot in the room, pretending it is another place, such as the grocery store.

Ask:

- **What do you usually do when you're at the grocery store?**
- **What's one way you could help someone at the grocery store?**
- **Your heart has a picture of you with God. How can you and God do what's right at the grocery store?**

Change leaders, allowing different kids to lead. Repeat this game with other places, such as the post office, doctor's office, and playground. Continue asking questions throughout each experience.

Going With God Supplies

- Bible
- markers
- hole punch
- several pairs of scissors
- 16-inch length of yarn per child
- 1 copy per child of the "Heart for God" handout (at the end of this lesson)





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How was this game like or unlike having God with you at each of the places visited?
- What's one way you have a hard time doing what's right?
- How can you show other people that God is with you through your actions?

Say: Remember, God will be with you wherever you go. We can always ► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD** and not be afraid because we know God is with us. The Israelites faced a situation in which many of them chose to be afraid instead of trusting God's greatness to help them. They didn't do what God wanted because they were afraid. Let's be brave and follow God no matter what happens around us.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)

Theo puppet

CD player

fake bug

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the fake bug in
the Surprise Box, and
hide the box where it's
easily accessible.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: (*whispering*) Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Why are you whispering?

Theo: I'm hiding from something really, really scary. I thought maybe I'd be safe with you guys. Can we hang out a while and check out the Surprise Box? I think that would make me feel better.

(*Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the fake bug around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.*)

Theo: Aaah! That's what I was hiding from. I don't like that bug at all.

Teacher: Hold up, Theo. Before you go running, let's think about this a bit more. This is actually a fake bug.

Theo: It is?

Teacher: Yes. See? And even if it was real, God can help us be brave. Kids, what are some ways Theo could be brave?

(*Pause for kids to answer your question.*)

Teacher: In the Bible today, we're going to learn about how the Israelites were so scared that they almost didn't obey God. They had to learn how to ► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD**. We'll learn about trusting God when we're scared.

Theo: So you're saying I don't need to be afraid of gross bugs like that one?



Teacher: We can pray and ask God to help us and trust him to take care of us because God is with us all the time.

Theo: Okay. I'll try to be brave. Thanks for telling me about that. Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's something you're scared of the way Theo is scared of the bug?**
- **Tell about a time you were brave even though you were scared.**
- **How can you trust God to help you when things are scary?**

Say: **No matter what's going on, God is bigger than the scary things we face. He's always with us and won't ever leave us without help. Just like Theo is going to try to be brave about bugs, we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD and do what's right even when it's not easy. Let's learn about what happened to the Israelites.**

Bible Time: 007

What You'll Do ■■■■

Open your Bible to Numbers 13:1–14:23, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Tell kids that they'll be spies in this activity. Identify two of the spies as Joshua and Caleb. Let kids practice moving quietly like spies.

Say: **I'm going to tell what happened in our Bible passage today, and I'll need your help to do it. Listen very closely as we pretend to be the spies Moses sent out. God told Moses to send 12 spies to check out the land called Canaan. Canaan was the land God gave the Israelites to live in. Let's all pretend we're going to spy on the land. Lie down on your tummies and slide across the floor like a spy.** You might want to join the children and lead them on their stomachs around the room. Then have children return and form a circle.

Say: **Spies, look at this beautiful land. There are lots of yummy fruits like grapes, and there are also vegetables! We never had any of these good foods when we were in the desert. I see other things, too, like milk and honey. We haven't eaten those in a long time!** Let kids say what they would want to see in a special promised land.

Say: **All of the Israelites' favorite foods were there in the land of Canaan, and the Israelites were hungry. The grapes and other food items were bigger and better than what the Israelites were used to seeing. We don't know for sure how big the grapes were, but the Bible says that two men carried one bunch of grapes on a long pole.**



Bible Time: 007
Supplies

.....
Bible





Tell the children to get into groups of three, and choose one child in each group to be the grapes. Have the grapes stand in between the other two kids in their group, leaning on their shoulders while they “carry” the grapes a short distance. When all the kids have had a chance to be the grapes, tell children to return to the circle.

Say: **Look at the big people who live here—they’re giants, and they look very strong. Do you see them?** Have kids pretend to see the giants. Say: **Shhh! Let’s not get caught—those people look scary. Spies, let’s go back and tell Moses that the land looks great but we’re afraid of the giants who live here.**

Ask:

- **Explain whether you think you’d be afraid to try to take something from people who were as tall as our ceiling.**

Say: **Every one of the spies is afraid of the giants except for you two.** Point to Caleb and Joshua. **All of the other spies say we can’t attack those people because they’re bigger and stronger than we are. But you aren’t afraid. You’re so brave.** Have Joshua and Caleb stand up and say, “We’ll stand up for God! He’ll help us fight the giants, and we’ll win!”

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

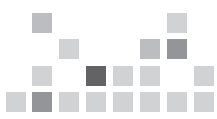
- **What was it like to pretend to spy on people who are bigger and stronger than we are?**
- **What’s it like to be brave when everyone else is afraid?**
- **When is it hard or scary to do the right thing?**
- **What’s one way you can ask God to help you be brave and do what’s right?**

Say: **God can make us brave and strong when we try to ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD like Joshua and Caleb did. God was happy that Joshua and Caleb stood up for him and did what he asked, so later on God let them live in Canaan, but he told the people who were afraid that they couldn’t live in that land.**

4

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they’d like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center’s description.



CENTER 1:

Spying for God

What You'll Do

Say: **God gave the Israelites a good place to live, but they only focused on the scary things about living there. We can sometimes do that, too. Let's paint some grapes on our My Bible Playground pages to help us remember to look for the blessings God gives us.**

Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and have kids write their names on their papers. Give the children shallow bowls of purple tempera paint and unsharpened pencils. Let kids each dip the flat end of a pencil into the paint; then have kids stamp the pencils onto the papers to create a large cluster of grapes hanging from the pole. Remind the children that the fruit Joshua and Caleb found in the land of Canaan was so big that they could hardly carry it.

Say: **Talk with a partner about something good God has done in your life.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think of the spies being scared instead of amazed at the good things God was ready to give them?**
- **What's one thing you're afraid of that keeps you from doing something good?**
- **What's one way you can remind yourself that God's in control of that scary situation?**

Say: **Even when we're afraid, we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. When all the other spies were afraid, Joshua and Caleb told the Israelites that God would help them. They had faith that God wanted them to live in the land of Canaan and enjoy all of the beautiful fruits God made for them. Let's make sure we don't just focus on things that scare us but that we find ways to have faith when we're scared.**

CENTER 2:

Center 2: Standing Firm Snacks

What You'll Do

Say: **There's nothing wrong with being afraid, but when we let our fear stop us from doing things God wants us to do, that can be a problem for everyone. Let's make some snack people and help them be brave.**



Center 1: Spying for God Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers
unsharpened pencils
purple tempera paint
bowls

Center 1: Spying for God Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
8 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.

Center 2: Standing Firm Snacks Supplies

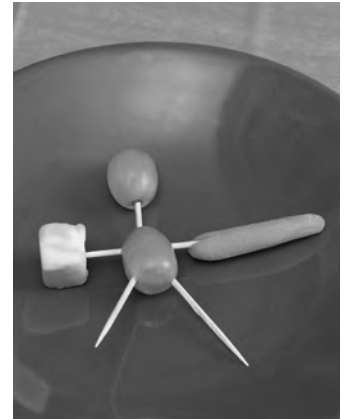
grapes
4 toothpicks per child
baby carrots
cheese cubes
antibacterial gel
(optional)

**! ALLERGY
■ ALERT**





Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around the table. Set out supplies. Say: **God's people saw giants in the land, and they were afraid. They forgot that God is bigger even than giants. Let's make some people with our snacks.** Show kids how to stick toothpicks through the grapes to make stick figures. Attach the carrot to a toothpick for a sword. Have kids pretend the cheese cube is a shield.



Say: **Form pairs, and pretend to have a small battle for the Promised Land.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's something you have that you'd be unhappy to have taken from you?
- How can you trust God to be a warrior for you when you're scared?

Say: **Even though we can't see God, we can trust that he's with us. No matter what situation we face, we can trust that God is giving us bravery and strength. When God is with us, nothing's too big or scary for us to face. We aren't facing it alone. God handles the things that we aren't able to. Like Caleb and Joshua trusted God to take care of them, let's ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.**

■ CENTER 3:

A Giant Feast

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God wanted to give the Israelites things that would be good for them.**

Show children the "Fruits and Veggies" cards. Separate the cards, and place them on the table.

Give children modeling dough, and let them create the fruits or vegetables they see in the pictures. Remind the children that one of the best things about the land of Canaan was the big fruits and vegetables God wanted the people to have.

Center 3: A Giant Feast Supplies

modeling dough
Teacher Pack
"Fruits and Veggies"
cards
interlocking people

Have kids form pairs and use the interlocking people to retell the events from the Bible with their giant food representing the food the Israelites saw in the Promised Land. Allow two to three minutes for kids to talk.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think of God expecting the people to trust him and not be afraid?**
- **How can we ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD like Joshua and Caleb were?**

Say: **Joshua and Caleb trusted God more than their own fears as they decided what to do. God wants us to put him first and trust him even if we think we know what’s going on. God made everything, and he knows what’s best for us. We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD in all situations.**

■ **CENTER 4:**

Please Stand Up, Please Stand Up

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Moses sent spies into the Promised Land to check it out for the Israelites. Let’s make paper dolls to stand up for God.**

Distribute copies of the “Paper Doll” handout. Have kids take a few minutes to each decorate and cut out a paper doll with two sides. One side of the paper doll will be Caleb, and the other side will be the child.

When kids are done, ask:

- **Who’ll stand up for God?**

Encourage each child to stand his or her paper doll and respond, “Caleb will stand up for God.” Have the child “sit” the paper doll on the self-portrait side and then stand the paper doll again and respond, “I will stand up for God.”

Have kids form pairs and take turns throwing coins at their partners’ paper dolls. Then have the kids hold the dolls up as their partners throw coins at their paper dolls. Point out that the paper dolls can stand up against much more when the kids are holding them up.



Center 4: Please Stand Up, Please Stand Up Supplies

-
- paper
 - several pairs of scissors
 - markers
 - coins
 - 1 copy per child of the “Paper Doll” handout (at the end of this lesson)





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- In what way does God give you strength like you helped your paper doll?
- What's one way God gives you strength when you need to be brave for him?
- How can you help someone else be brave for God?

Say: **God likes us to be brave for him. Just like we were able to help our paper dolls stand up when our partners threw coins at them, we can trust God to hold us up when tough things happen. We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD in all situations, just like Caleb and Joshua were brave.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives throughout the week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice being brave and doing what's right.**

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Stand up for a friend or sibling when something tough is going on. Remind the friend or sibling that God helps us be brave.**
2. **Draw a picture of a time you stood up for God, and hang it on your mirror. Keep it throughout the end of October to remind you that no matter what might scare you, God will help you be brave.**
3. **With your mom or dad's help, write a letter to a missionary thanking that person for being brave for God and for showing you a way you can be brave for God, too.**

Say: **If you want to stand up for someone, circle choice number 1. If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 2. If you want to write a letter, circle choice**




number 3. Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

“Be Brave” Prayer

What You’ll Do

Lead kids in singing and following the motions for “Stand Up for God” (track 17 on the CD) together as a prayer.

 **Dear God, help me stand up for you** (*stand up, and then sit down*)
Stand up for you (*stand up, and then sit down*)
Stand up for you. (*stand up, and then sit down*)
Dear God, help me stand up for you. (*stand up, and then sit down*)
I will tell about you. Amen!
I will tell about you. Amen!
I will tell about you. Amen!
Dear God, help me stand up for you. (*stand up, and then sit down*)
I will tell about you. Amen!
(Repeat.)

After you finish the song, pray: **God, thank you that you help us be brave for you. Remind us to be brave for you this week. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

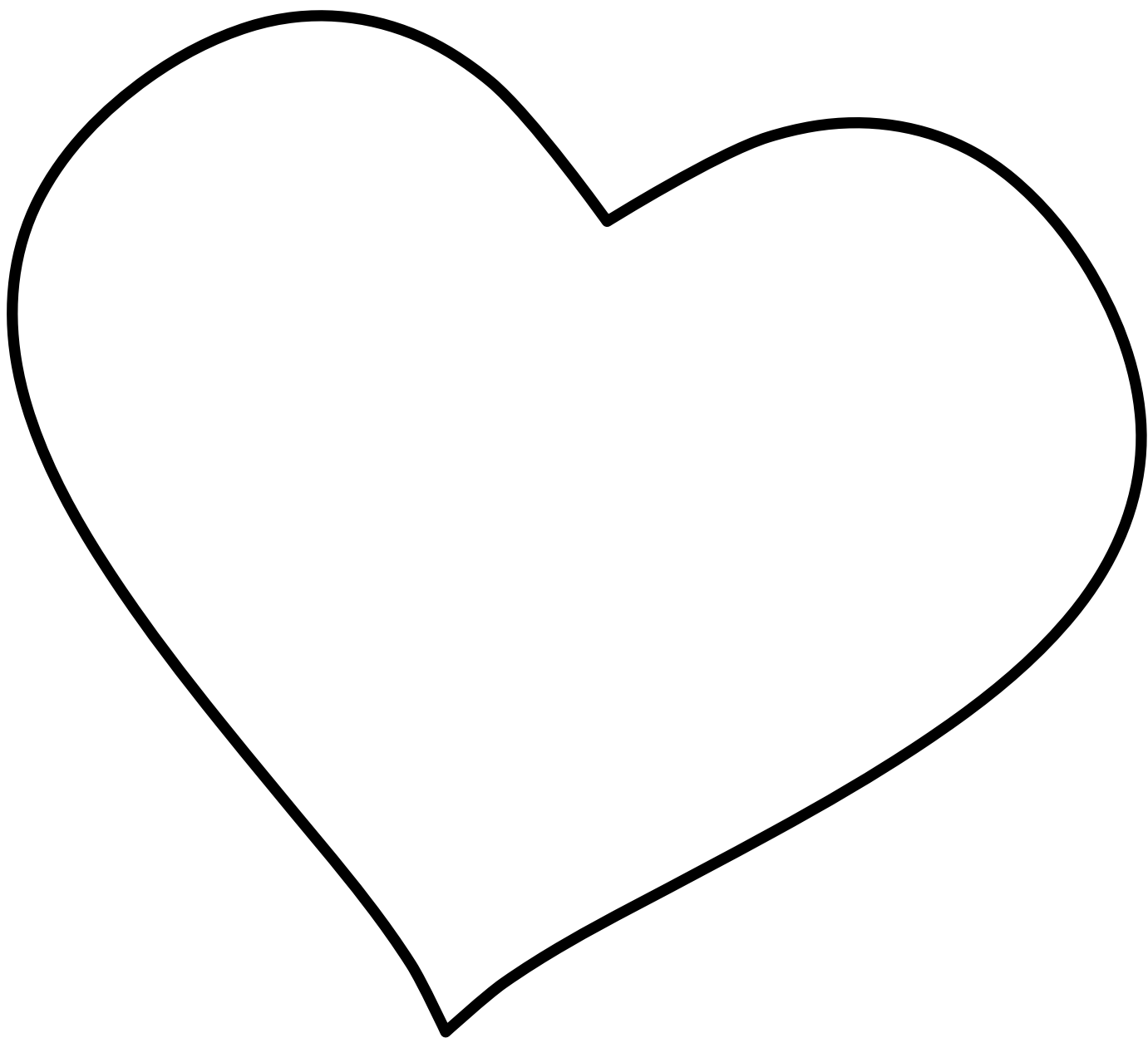


“Be Brave” Prayer Supplies

- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Stand Up for God” (track 17)

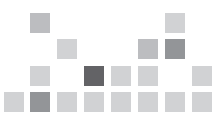


Heart for God

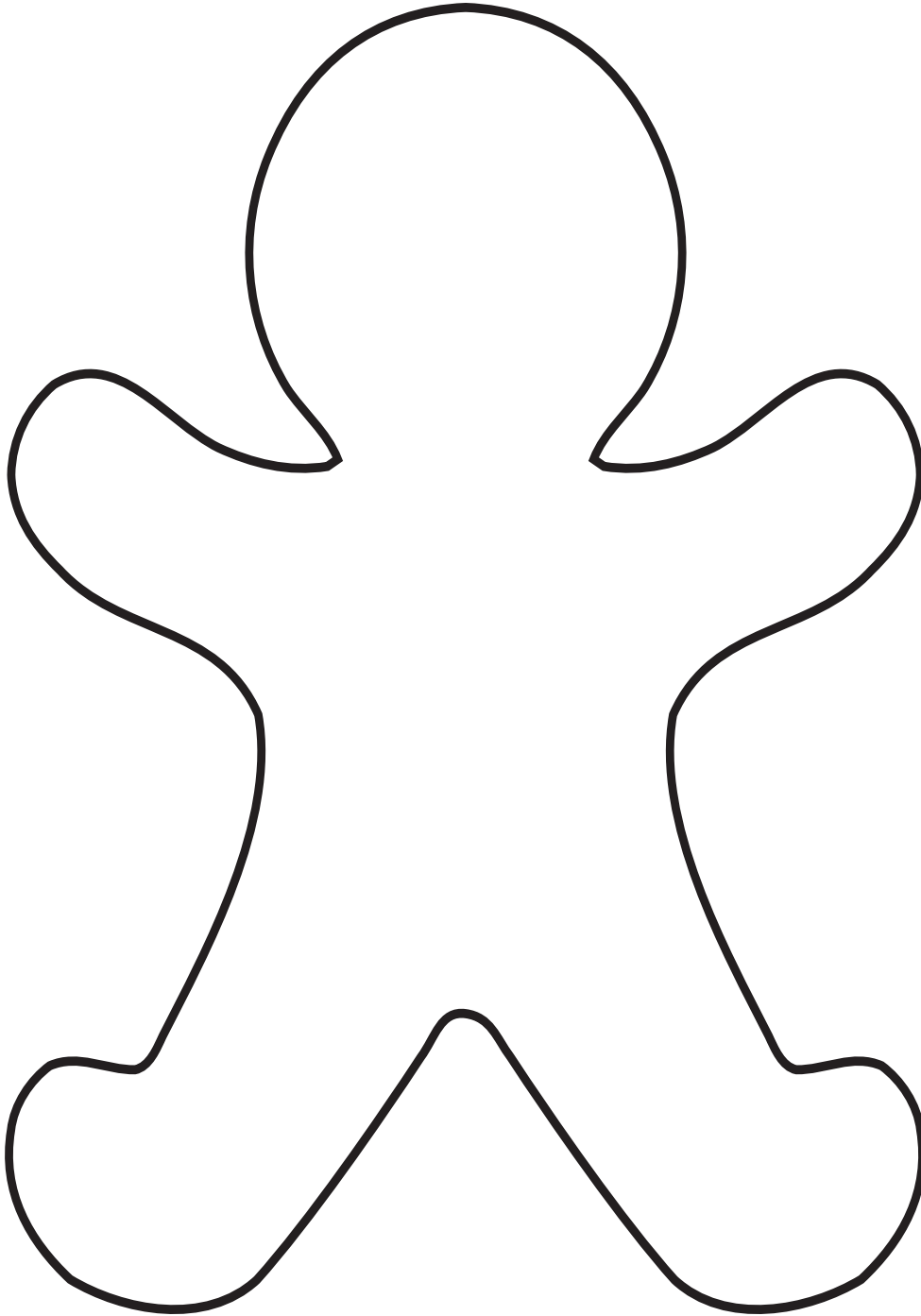


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Paper Doll



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