



Unit 4.1: Agents of Courage

We can be agents of courage because God is always with us and gives us His strength to bravely face every situation in life.

Memory Verse: Joshua 1:9

Lesson Objectives:

- Identify a fear they face.
- KNOW THAT GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU. Believe that God is always with them if they have trusted Jesus as Savior.
- FOCUS ON GOD, NOT PROBLEMS. Recall verses that relate God's promises of comfort.
- TRUST GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE. Determine to trust God when they are afraid.

Talk about it:

3rd & 4th Graders

- What do you usually do when you feel afraid or scared about something? What does God want you to do?
- What do you know about God that can help you to have courage?
- When would you need God to give you courage?

5th & 6th Graders

- What can you do to focus on God and not your problem?
- Sometimes friends need help to be courageous. Who can you encourage to have courage this week?
- Why does knowing that God is always with you give you courage?



Encouragement for you:

God loves you deeply and has promised to give you everything that you need to be the parent He created you to be. When you are feeling weak, remember that it is God's presence and His strength that makes you strong. God will make you courageous and empower you to do what He has asked of you. Is there a problem or situation with your child that you need to bring before God? How can you focus more on trusting God for His courage and His strength in that situation?

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Family Activity: Character Courage

What You'll Need:
Paper, colored pencils or markers

STEP 1: Draw or talk about your favorite cartoon, movie, literary or Bible character who shows courage in difficult times.

STEP 2: Ask, "How did that character show courage?"

Share these key concepts:

- Every person is afraid of something. While cartoons or TV shows often portray humor in a character's fear, fear is a very real thing.
- We all have different fears. One of you might be afraid of bugs. Someone else might be afraid of heights.
- God promises to always be with us. We can be agents of courage and overcome our fear when we trust in Him. Fear doesn't have to be something we always experience.

STEP 3: Look up and read Matthew 14:22-33

Share these key concepts:

- Peter was a fisherman. He was used to storms and waves. He would have worked hard with the other disciples to fight their way to the shore.
- The disciples were frightened when they saw Jesus, thinking He was a ghost. Imagine how surprised they were to see their Master WALKING ON THE WATER in the storm!
- When Peter found out it was Jesus, Peter bravely asked Jesus to call him out of the boat and onto the stormy sea.
- As Peter courageously walked toward Jesus, the circumstances of the waves and the wind discouraged him and caused him to be afraid. He lost his courage and began to sink.
- He immediately cried out to Jesus, who lifted him back up, and they journeyed back to the boat.
- While Peter did become discouraged, he cried out to Jesus, and Jesus immediately reached out to him and gave him the strength and courage he needed.

STEP 4: Share these key concepts:

- If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, God has promised to give you courage as well.
- When you face scary situations or discouragement, know that God is always with you!
- You can trust the promises of God's Word.
- Ask God to give you courage and He will faithfully help you face your fears and become an agent of courage!

STEP 5: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand that we can be agents of courage.



Unit 4.2: Agents of Humility

We are agents of humility when we follow Christ's example and think of others' needs before our own.

Memory Verse: Philippians 2:3

Lesson Objectives:

- Recognize that people often struggle with putting their own wants and needs first.
- FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE. Understand that Jesus is the perfect example of humility.
- CHOOSE TO DO WHAT GOD WANTS. Choose to set aside personal wants or gain and seek to do what God wants.
- POINT TO GOD AND OTHERS, NOT TO SELF. Consider one way in which they can put someone's needs or desires before their own this week.

Talk about it:

3rd & 4th Graders

- When can you put others first and show humility?
- Are there times when it is hard for you to be humble?
- What is one thing you can do to show humility this week?

5th & 6th Graders

- What keeps you from being humble?
- What can help you to remember to be humble?
- Sometimes we don't share the gospel because we are afraid. If you are humbling yourself before God, how will that help you share the gospel?



Encouragement for you:

As a parent, you have to put others ahead of yourself constantly. Some days you hit the pillow at night exhausted; some days leave you energized. Whether the day feels good or bad, know that your sacrifice has honored God and you have lived out Philippians 2:3 for your children to see! Do you remember to spend time daily with your loving Savior? How can you be intentional to depend on Him to give you the strength you need to put others first? God is waiting for you to come to Him so He can work through you.

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Family Activity: Puffed Up With Pride

What You'll Need:
Balloons

STEP 1: Each person gets a balloon. Blow them up as big as they can and then let the balloons go.

Ask the following questions:

- What happened when you blew air into the balloons?
- What happened when you let them go?

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- This is what our lives are like when we are filled with pride.
- Pride is thinking we are better than others and that we deserve what we want or need more than anyone else. Pride means that we always put ourselves first because we are the most important.
- When we have pride in our hearts, we are puffed up. Just like the balloon stretched out when filled with air, we “stretch out” our wants and desires, not thinking about the thoughts and feelings of others.
- God wants us to let go of the pride in our lives. We become agents of humility when we submit to His plans for our lives, when we look out not only for our own needs but also to the needs of others. Our lives need to be defined by thinking of what others need and making their needs a priority to us.
- True humility comes from following Jesus’ example. Jesus put our interests before His own when He took the punishment we deserved (Philippians 2:7-8).
- God gives grace to those who are willing to set aside their selfishness and choose to obey God (1 Peter 5:5-7).
- It isn’t always easy to put others first, but God promises that His grace will be enough (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- When we are agents of humility, God is able to work in us to show His love to others (Ephesians 4:1-3)

STEP 3: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of becoming an agent of humility.

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Unit 4.3: Agents of Wisdom

We are agents of wisdom when we study God's Word and apply that knowledge so that we make good choices that please God.

Memory Verse: James 1:5

Lesson Objectives:

- **STUDY GOD'S WORD.** Understand the difference between knowledge and wisdom.
- **ASK GOD FOR WISDOM.** Recognize that God will give us wisdom if we humbly ask Him.
- **MAKE GOOD CHOICES THAT PLEASE GOD.** Believe that godly wisdom will help them be more like Christ.
- Identify one area in their lives in which they need to seek God's wisdom.

Talk about it:

3rd & 4th Graders

- Where does wisdom come from?
- How is being smart different from being wise?
- What do you need God's wisdom for today?

5th & 6th Graders

- Wisdom isn't just for old people. What is a situation that kids your age need wisdom to get through?
- What is the difference between the world views as wise and God's wisdom?
- How do you get God's wisdom? What situation do you need God's wisdom to get through this week?



Encouragement for you:

There are so many parenting books full of opinions on how to be a good parent. Human authors and their books can help us, but if you want real wisdom – the kind that helps you become more like Jesus Christ – God and His Word are where to look. God is waiting to generously give you His wisdom to help you navigate life as a parent (James 1:5). God doesn't just want us to fill our head with a bunch of knowledge. He wants you to lean on His understanding daily so He can show you what He wants you to do. What wisdom do you need to call on God for today?

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Family Activity: One Wish

What You'll Need:
Paper, pens or pencils

STEP 1: Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen or a pencil and have them write down one wish they have.

STEP 2: After thirty seconds, have kids share their wishes. Ask, "Why did you wish for those things?"

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- The Bible says that God went to King Solomon, a king of Israel and told Solomon that He would grant him one request (2 Chronicles 1:7).
- Solomon could have asked for wealth, power or a great kingdom. Instead, he humbly asked God for wisdom because he knew that he needed God's wisdom to become a great king (2 Chronicles 1:10).
- God granted Solomon great wisdom. In fact, Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs, often known as the "wisdom book" in the Bible (2 Chronicles 1:11-12).
- God wants to grant you wisdom and He promises to do so if we ask Him for wisdom and try to live in the wise ways that He has set up.
- God gave us His Word, the Bible, which contains all the answers we will ever need. Not only that, but God also promises to give us wisdom, which is taking what we know and using it to make good choices, if we ask Him for it.
- The first step to understanding God's wisdom is trusting Jesus as our Savior. When we are saved, the Holy Spirit, who is God, guides us (1 Corinthians 3:16). The Holy Spirit helps us understand God's Word and encourages us to make right choices that please God (1 Corinthians 2:10-13).
- Second, we need to be searching for God's wisdom as if it were a great treasure. Psalm 19 says that God's Word should be desired more than fine gold (Psalm 19:10). When we seek after God's wisdom, He promises to give us not just a little, but A LOT of wisdom (James 1:5).
- Third, we need to humbly ask for God's wisdom in every area of our lives. Asking for God's wisdom means that we have to rely on God and His strength and not on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6).
- Finally, we must trust that God will give us wisdom if we ask for it and then we must apply His knowledge to our lives (James 1:5). Whether we need wisdom to know how to handle an unkind kid at school or how to love a pesty little brother or sister at home, God promises to generously give us His wisdom so that we can make good choices that will please Him and allow others to see His light in our life.

STEP 4: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that we can become agents of godly wisdom.



Unit 4.4: Agents of Obedience

Agents of obedience show their love for God when they obey quickly with good attitude.

Memory Verse: John 14:15

Lesson Objectives:

- HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. Realize that obedience begins in the heart.
- KEEP GOD'S COMMANDS. Recognize that rules are in place to protect us, help us and keep us safe.
- HAVE A HUMBLE ATTITUDE. Identify authority figures in their lives whom they need to obey.
- DISPLAY THEIR LOVE TO GOD. Choose to show their love to God by becoming agents of obedience.

Talk about it:

3rd & 4th Graders

- What do you show God when you obey Him?
- Whom are you really obeying when you choose to obey your parent or teacher?
- What can you do this week to help you remember to obey quickly and completely?

5th & 6th Graders

- Does it ever feel easier to ignore what we have been asked to do? When it is difficult to obey?
- Is obeying only partway really obeying? Or is it disobedience and sin?
- Has obeying God ever made you stand out from everyone else?



Encouragement for you:

Your child is a gift from God! He or she has been entrusted to you so that you can raise them to know, love and serve Jesus Christ. Showing up to be the parent your child needs each day is an act of service, love and obedience that makes an eternal impact. It is not always easy, but you are loving and honoring God through your parenting – you are showing your child a real-life example of someone who has a relationship with God!

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Family Activity: Common Rules for Kids

What You'll Need:
Nothing

STEP 1: Brainstorm common rules that most kids have to follow either at home, church or school. Ask, "Why do we have rules to follow?"

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- You have rules you are expected to follow at home, school, church and everywhere you go. Rules are there to help keep us safe and protect us.
- Grown-ups have rules to follow too. We need to obey the policies at church, the rules for driving and the laws of our state and national government.
- God gave us rules in His Word. We are agents of obedience when we follow them.

STEP 3: Ask, "Why is it sometimes hard to obey? (Possible answers might include they don't want to stop what they are doing to obey; it takes too long to do what they are asked; they feel it's not fair, etc.)

Share these concepts:

- We all disobey God when we sin and the consequence for our disobedience is ultimately death (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23). But Jesus, God's Son, took our punishment when He died on the cross for our sin (1 Peter 2:24). When we trust Jesus as our Savior, God forgives our disobedience and we get to have a relationship with Him (Ephesians 1:7).
- God has placed people over us in our lives and He wants us to obey the good things they ask us to do. We must have an attitude of humility and respect for those in authority over us (Hebrews 13:17). Have kids write about or draw a picture of why it's sometimes hard for a kid their age to obey.

Encourage kids to ask God to give them an obedient attitude as well.

STEP 4: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of obeying God and those in authority over us.



Unit 4.5: Agents of Honor

We are agents of honor when we glorify God by sacrificially loving and respecting others.

Memory Verse: Romans 12:10

Lesson Objectives:

- SHOW RESPECT AND GIVE PREFERENCE TO OTHERS. Understand that honor is showing respect to others.
- FOLLOW CHRIST'S EXAMPLE OF HONOR. Recognize Christ's example of showing honor. Determine to follow Christ's example of showing honor.
- RESPECT OTHERS WHEN THEY DON'T FEEL LIKE IT. Identify people whom they can show honor.
- SHOW THEY ARE DISCIPLES OF JESUS. Choose to honor two people this week.

Talk about it:

3rd & 4th Graders

- How did Jesus honor and show love to the disciples?
- What is a reason that you might not want to honor or love someone else?
- How can you show love to someone today?

5th & 6th Graders

- We are commanded to love in what we say and what we do. What does that look like in your life?
- Can you honor someone who has intentionally hurt you?
- Who will you choose to honor this coming week?



Encouragement for you:

Children need to hear from their parents the words, "I love you," on a daily basis. But 1 John 3:18 tells us to not only express love in what we say but also in what we do. When you show your child love, even when you don't feel like it, God is glorified. However, God doesn't expect you to do this on your own – He wants you to depend on Him for His strength and grace. When you are weak, He will empower you to be the parent He has called you to be – God will enable you to honor others.

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Family Activity: Signs of Honor

What You'll Need:
Whiteboard or paper, markers

PREP: Write out the following list:

- Pledging to the flag
- Standing during the national anthem of your country
- Calling adults “Mr.” or “Mrs.”
- Bowing/curtsying to royalty

STEP 1: Ask, “What do all of these actions have in common?” Help them see that they are all signs of respect or honor.

Ask the following questions:

- What does it mean to show honor to someone?
- What are other ways people might show honor or respect? (E.g., saying “yes ma’am” or “yes sir”, calling people by their titles, etc.)
- Why is it important to show respect and honor?

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- We honor someone when we respect them and put their preferences before our own.
- People show honor or respect in many ways, such as doing kind things for someone, helping someone out without being asked, etc.
- Jesus gave us an example of showing honor when He washed the disciples’ feet. We follow His example when we love and respect others.
- Jesus is our example of showing honor to others. He willingly took the job of a servant and washed the disciples’ feet to teach us that we should love others so much that we are willing to do whatever is needed, even washing their feet (John 13:3-5).
- We show honor to others when we humbly put their needs before our own (Philippians 2:1-4).
- Showing honor isn’t always easy because our sin nature makes us selfish and self-centered. However, God will give us His strength to make right choices to honor and love others (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

STEP 3: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of being agents of honor.



Unit 4.6: Agents of Hope

We are agents of hope when we direct our focus from our circumstances to our faithful, almighty Father. He is always with us. He is always in control. He will work all things for His glory and our good.

Memory Verse: Psalm 43:5

Lesson Objectives:

- KNOW JESUS AS SAVIOR. Recognize true hope can only come from God.
- RECOGNIZE THAT GOD HAS A PLAN. Remember that God has a plan for our lives and will faithfully complete the plan that He started in us.
- BELIEVE THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL. Focus on the truth of God's Word and His promises – He knows all things and nothing surprises Him.
- CHOOSE TO HOPE IN GOD. Choose to place their confidence and hope in God.

Talk about it:

3rd & 4th Graders

- What does it mean to have hope?
- What are some of the promises that God has given you that give you hope?
- When do you need to have hope?

5th & 6th Graders

- How has God proven Himself to you in the past and given you hope?
- When you are discouraged, you can dwell on your problems or focus on God. How do you focus on God and His hope?
- Who do you know that needs to hear about God's hope? When will you tell him or her?



Encouragement for you:

Our spiritual health directly impacts our effectiveness as a parent. And there is always room for us to grow spiritually. How are you making room for your spiritual health? Do you consistently spend time with God? Are you in community with other believers? You can only lead and parent in a godly way from the overflow of your relationship with God. What can you do to make it an even higher priority this week?

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Family Activity: I hope...

What You'll Need:
Whiteboard or paper; markers

STEP 1: Encourage your kids to finish the sentence "I hope. . ."

Ask the following questions:

- Which of these responses have a chance of happening? (Encourage kids to identify things that could possibly come true and then cross out ones that are impossible to come true.)
- What does it mean to hope in something?
- What happens when we really hope for something, but things do not turn out like we had hoped?

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- We often hope that things will happen or turn out the way we want.
- Things do not always turn out the way we hope they will.
- When we hope in Christ, we can know that He is always with us even when things do not turn out the way we hoped they would.

STEP 3: Remind your kids that our hope is in God.

Share these key concepts:

- True hope begins when we trust Jesus as Savior. When we are saved, we have a right relationship with God and we have peace and hope in Him (Romans 5:1-5).
- God has a plan for our lives. We are His workmanship and He will complete the good work that He started in us (Ephesians 2:10, Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 8:28).
- God is always working for our good. There is never an accident with God and nothing takes Him by surprise. He will work out every situation in our lives for good and His glory (Romans 8:28).
- When we are discouraged, we can remind ourselves to trust God. We can trust in the promises of His Word and we can praise God for who He is and for what He is going to accomplish in us. When our focus is on Him, our hearts will reflect an attitude of hope.

STEP 4: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of being agents of hope.

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Unit 4.7: Agents of Grace

Agents of grace live out God's grace when they grow in Christ, rely on God's strength and share the gospel of grace with others.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:10

Lesson Objectives:

- **SAVED THROUGH GOD'S GRACE.** Understand that grace is God giving them something good they don't deserve.
- **GROW IN CHRIST.** Identify areas in which they can grow through God's grace.
- **RELY ON GOD'S STRENGTH.** Rely on God's grace to give them strength – can't do anything on our own.
- **SHARE THE GOSPEL.** Share the gospel of grace with others.
- **SEEK TO GLORIFY GOD.** Serve Him graciously.

Talk about it:

3rd & 4th Graders

- What is God's grace? What do we have because of God's grace?
- What did Paul understand the more that he served God?
- Someone told you about God's grace. Who do you need to tell?

5th & 6th Graders

- How have you seen God's grace working in your life?
- How has God made you strong when you felt weak?
- Who in your life needs to hear about God's grace and what He has done for them?



Encouragement for you:

God has not called you to parent on your own power, ability and wisdom. As a believer, you can be confident that God will bless you abundantly and give you everything you need when you need it, as it states in 2 Corinthians 9:8. God's grace not only saves us from our sins, but it also enables us to do what He has called us to do. You don't have to "go it alone." What a beautiful promise! We all need help every day and God has promised to give us all the support we need.

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Family Activity: A Maze of Grace

What You'll Need:

Painters tape, paper plates, paper cups, candy bars, blindfolds

PREP: Tape off an 8'x8' square on the floor. Scatter paper plates, candy bars and paper cups throughout the space.

STEP 1: Blindfold two people and place each one at opposite corners of the maze. Instruct the other two people to stand at opposite corners beside them. Remaining family members can stand along the sides of the maze.

STEP 2: Give them two minutes to try to get their teammates through the maze and pick up as many candy bars as they can without touching any of the landmines, going outside the taped area or touching another person. Those on the sidelines they must remain silent through the activity.

STEP 3: Stop after two minutes (or earlier if a blindfolded kid steps on a landmine, steps outside the taped area or touches another person).

Ask the following questions:

- To the blindfolded people: Why was it hard to rely on one person to lead you through the maze?
- To the guides: What difficulties did you face during your part in the activity?
- To those on the sidelines: How did it feel to watch and not be involved in the activity?

STEP 4: Share these concepts:

- Our lives can be like a maze. We have no idea what could happen in a day's time.
- Because God is gracious, He wants to be the guide in our lives and He has a truly good plan for our lives.
- God's grace is available to EVERYONE; no one has to "watch from the sidelines." Each of us has an opportunity to be an agent of grace.

STEP 5: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of God's grace in our lives.

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Unit 4.8: Agents of Grace... Review

God needs people to live out His truths in their lives. We can be agents of courage, humility, wisdom, obedience, honor, hope and grace for Him.

Memory Verses: Joshua 1:9, Philippians 2:3, James 1:5, John 14:15, Romans 12:10, Psalm 43:5 and 1 Corinthians 15:10

Lesson Objectives:

- Highlight key truths from the “Agents of Grace...” units.
- Realize that being an agent of Christ is a life-long process.
- Determine areas in which they can act on behalf of Christ.
- Choose specific ways they will be agents of Christ this week.



Talk about it:

- When would you need God to give you courage?
- What does it mean to be humble?
- What is one thing that you need God’s wisdom for right now?
- What do you show God when you obey Him?
- Who is someone you can honor and serve this week? How can you do that?
- When is a time that you need to have hope?
- What is one thing that you need God’s grace to help you do?

Encouragement for you:

Your child has just finished learning a lot about God, the Bible, redemption and ways to have an active faith. You have also been on a journey along with him or her and it’s time to celebrate what God has been doing in your life. As you look back, what is the one insight that you want to take with you?

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Family Activity: Agent Code Names

What You'll Need:
Name tags, sharpies or pens

STEP 1: Tell everyone that they need to come up with a code name using the following method: The first word of their name is the color of their shirt. The second name is the last food they ate (e.g., gray pizza).

STEP 2: Encourage them to write down their code names on their nametags and wear them. Ask, "What is the role of a secret agent?"

STEP 3: Share the following key concepts:

- A secret agent works undercover on behalf of someone else and is often known by another name.
- When we trust Jesus as our Savior, we work on His behalf by representing Him to others.
- As agents of Jesus Christ, we cannot hide who we are; we need to represent Jesus Christ openly so others can see who He is and how He can change their lives.

STEP 4: Share the following key concepts overviewing the lessons learned in this Unit:

- Agents of courage know that God is always with them and that the Holy Spirit lives in them and gives them strength (John 14:16). They have courage as they focus on the truths of God's Word, knowing that He will work all things out for their good and His glory (Romans 8:28).
- Agents of humility follow Jesus' perfect example of humility. He died on the cross to take the punishment they deserved (Philippians 2:5-8). They follow His example of humility when they listen to His Spirit and put the interest of others before their own (Philippians 2:3-4, James 4:6-7).
- Agents of wisdom understand God's Word and make right choices that please God (1 Corinthians 2:10-13). They will desire to read and understand the Bible (Psalm 119:97, Psalm 119:103). They will humbly seek after God's wisdom so they can make good choices that please Him (Proverbs 2:6, James 1:5).
- Agents of obedience obey the rules in God's Word and they are happy and blessed (Psalm 1:1). They show God they love Him by humbly respecting and quickly obeying those who lead them (John 14:15, Hebrews 13:17).
- Agents of honor follow Christ's example (John 13:3-5). They esteem and honor other people (Philippians 2:1-4). As they treat others this way, people will see a difference in the followers of Jesus (John 13:35).
- Agents of hope focus on God and the truth of His Word, the Bible (Psalm 43:5). They realize that God has a plan for their lives (Philippians 4:6). They have confidence that God will work out every situation they face for their good and so that He will be glorified (Romans 8:28).
- Agents of grace have accepted God's gracious gift of salvation. They continue to grow in God's grace by studying God's Word and relying on His strength (2 Peter 3:18, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10). They live out God's grace by serving others and sharing the gospel of grace (1 Peter 4:10-11, Acts 20:24).