

Family Devotion

Brave New World | Week 5

A devotion for families to read together — or for kids on their own!

Read This Together!

Have you ever had to do something brave?

Maybe it was the first day at a new school. Or trying out for a team. Or sitting next to someone at lunch who was eating alone. Maybe it was just raising your hand when you weren't totally sure of the answer.

That feeling right before you do the brave thing — that fluttery, nervous, *what if this goes wrong* feeling — that's actually really important. Because you can't be brave without it.

In the Bible, there was a man named Peter who had to be brave in a really big way.

Peter was one of Jesus's best friends. And one day, God gave him a very strange dream. In the dream, God showed Peter all kinds of food he'd been taught never to eat — and said: *don't call anything unclean that I have made good*. Peter woke up totally confused.

And then — *knock knock knock*. Three men were at the door.

They had come from a man named Cornelius, who was very different from Peter. Different background. Different religion. Different everything. And God said: *go with them*.

Peter could have said no. He had good reasons to say no! But he took a deep breath — and went.

He walked into Cornelius's house, looked around at all these people he'd never expected to meet, and started talking. And something amazing happened: the Holy Spirit showed up. Right there. For everyone in the room.

Peter said something we should all memorize: **“Who am I to stand in God's way?”**

One brave first step. One open door. And a whole room full of people discovered they were loved by God.

Talk About It

For younger kids:

- Can you think of a time you did something that felt scary but you did it anyway? How did it feel afterward?
- Peter was nervous, but he went anyway. What do you think helped him be brave?

For older kids and grown-ups:

- Have you ever had to cross a “boundary” — go somewhere unfamiliar or talk to someone very different from you? What happened?
 - Peter said, “Who am I to stand in God’s way?” What do you think that means for us today? Is there a “first step” your family might be avoiding?
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Try This! — The First Step Dare

This week, each person in your family picks ONE first step to take. It doesn’t have to be huge. But it should be something that feels at least a little bit brave.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Say hi to someone you don’t usually talk to.
- Write a note to someone who might need encouragement.
- Try something new that you’ve been putting off.
- Have a conversation you’ve been nervous to have.
- Sit with someone who is eating or playing alone.

Write your first step on a sticky note and put it somewhere you’ll see it — the mirror, the fridge, your homework folder. At the end of the week, check in: *Did you do it? What happened?*

Did You Know?

In Peter’s time, Jewish people and Gentiles (non-Jewish people) didn’t usually eat together or visit each other’s homes. It was a big social rule. When Peter walked through Cornelius’s door, everyone in the room knew it was a really big deal — because it was! Sometimes the bravest steps are the ones that say: *the old rules about who belongs together don’t apply here anymore.*

Our Family Prayer

(Simple enough to say together — or even memorize!)

God, you go before us into every scary place.

Help us be brave enough to follow.

When we're nervous — go with us.

When we're not sure — lead us.

And when we take that first step —

remind us you're already there.

Amen.

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