

Bible Study Aims

Club members will:

- understand how God's Word can help them face their fears.
- seek God's help in areas where they have fear.
- realize that when we have a relationship with God there is nothing to fear.

Scripture

John 16:33; Romans 8:38-39; Philipians 4:7

Prayer of Preparation

Dear God, please protect our children and community. Please give us wisdom as we face this epidemic and how to handle it. Replace our fears with faith and overwhelm us with Your peace. We trust that You care for us and that You can work all things for good. Amen.

Supplies Needed

- Bibles
- Paper
- Pencils
- Tape
- Scissors
- "Phobia Matching Game"
- Board or easel pad for Scripture
- Construction paper for App.
- Coloring supplies for Application

Plan Ahead

- Gather supplies.
- Print enough copies of the "Phobia Matching Game" to have a copy for every 3-5 kids in your club.
- Cut out "Phobia Matching Game" cards.
- Write "My Fears" and "God's Word" on the board or easel pad for Scripture. Write these three references under "God's Word:" John 16:33; Romans 8:38-39; Philipians 4:6-7.
- Cut paper into one-inch strips for Scripture. Make sure you have at least one strip per child.
- Cut construction paper into bookmark-sized pieces (approximately 2 inches by 6 inches). You will need one for each child for Application.
- Communicate with parents and volunteers about your plan for dealing with the COVID-19 virus.

What Have We to Fear?

OPENING 5-10 MINUTES

Welcome! Make announcements.

Sing

Sing songs about trusting God.

Pray

Dear God, You are trustworthy. We know that when we trust in You, we have nothing to fear. Please help us to trust You with our fears and worries. In Jesus' name, Amen.

BIBLE EXPLORATION 10-15 MINUTES

Introduction

- **Does anyone here know what a phobia is?** (Take answers.)

"Phobia" is a Greek word that means "fear." Today phobia is used at the end of a word to describe different fears that people may have. If you're afraid of tight spaces, you're said to have claustrophobia. If you are afraid of water, you have hydrophobia. Let's see if you can identify some common fears by matching the phobia to the picture.

Divide into groups of 3-5 kids. Give each group one set of the phobia matching game cards (see Plan Ahead). The goal is for each group to match the phobia to its corresponding picture. Teams will raise their hands when they think they have matched the phobias correctly. Check their work. In they have not matched everything correctly, tell them how many are correct and let them continue. You can stop when either one team has correctly matched the phobias OR allow each team to do so.

Answers to "Phobia Matching Game:"

- Aerophobia—Fear of flying
- Arachnophobia—Fear of spiders
- Astraphobia—Fear of thunder and lightning
- Glossophobia—Fear of public speaking
- Ophidiophobia—Fear of snakes
- Ornithophobia—Fear of birds
- Trypanophobia—Fear of needles

- **Does anyone here have one of these fears?** (Let kids share.)

It's not uncommon to be afraid of something. Sometimes the things we face in life can bring us fear—or make us worried.

Pass out an activity page to each child and have them do Part 1. Club members will check off their biggest fears. Allow time.

- **What are some of your fears?** Under where you wrote "My Fears" on the board or easel pad, list their answers. Since some club members may not be comfortable mentioning their fears in front of a group, add some yourself that would be common for children this age (such as family breakup, death, failure, being excluded or picked on, grades, crime, war or other disasters.)

There is a lot going on in the world today.

- **Have any of you heard in the news about people getting sick?** Have a show of hands.
- **Have your parents or teachers told you what to do to not get sick?** Listen to responses.
- **How has the news of this illness made you feel?** (Scared, uncertain, I don't know what to do. Should I do something different?)

We all have fears, some big and some small. Some seem terrible, while others may seem silly. But they're all real fears, even if they may never happen to you.

Scripture

God knows that at times we can become afraid. So let's find out what He says in His Word that can help us with our fears. If you have enough children and leaders, divide club members into two or three groups with a leader in each group. Assign each group one (or two) of the Scripture passages you wrote under God's Word. Hand out slips of paper for writing examples. Write on the board the three Scripture references from below. If you do not have enough children or leaders do this all together.

Give groups the following assignments. Modify as needed given the number of children and leaders you have.

Groups 1: Romans 8:38-39

Group 2: John 16:33

Group 3: Philippians 4:6-7

Read the verse you have been assigned and discuss how these Bible verses can help someone who is struggling with fear. Think of specific fears your passage could apply to and write each of fear down on a piece of paper. Have the club leader in each group ask a particular question:

- Romans 8:38-39 group—What does it mean that you cannot be separated from God's love?
- John 16:33 group—What does it mean for you that Jesus has overcome the world?
- Philippians 4:6-7 group—What does it mean for you that the peace of God can guard your heart and your mind?

After allowing time, ask the groups to share. Each group should designate one child to share what they discussed as a group about the verse they were given and another to talk about how it could help someone who is struggling with fear. Let groups take turns sharing. Then have them tape the fears that they wrote on their strips of paper next to the Scripture reference on the board.

Application

To help your children think of things they can do when they are afraid, work on Part 2 of the activity page.

- **What are some things you can do when you feel afraid?** (Pray—tell God you're afraid, ask for help; Read the Bible; Trust God—believe He will be with you and help you; Talk about it with someone you trust—such as a parent, friend, pastor or club leader; etc.)

Now, let's make a reminder for ourselves about what we can do when we're afraid. Hand out the bookmark-sized construction paper you cut earlier and markers (see Plan Ahead). **On one side of the bookmark, sketch something that makes you feel afraid. On the other side, write down one of the Bible passages we looked at to help you remember that you can trust God with this fear.** Allow time.

You might want to keep this bookmark in your Bible as a reminder.

SALVATION CHALLENGE

Maybe one thing you're afraid of is dying, because you're not sure what will happen to you if you do. Many people have this fear. But if you accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord, God promises that you will live with Him forever in His kingdom.

The wrong things we do, our sins, separate us from God, but He loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take the punishment for our wrongs. The Bible says the free gift of God is eternal life when we believe in Jesus and accept His forgiveness.

If you want to accept His forgiveness and His gift of life forever, pray this prayer with me. Please be sure, do you understand who Jesus is? Do you want Him to forgive you of your sins? Would you like to follow after Him? I'll pray aloud and you can repeat it silently or softly after me if it is what you want to say to God. Then, come tell me before the end of club if you prayed that prayer or if you have any questions. Let us pray.

Dear God, I know I'm separated from You by my sins. / I'm sorry for them. / I believe Jesus, Your Son, / died and came back to life so I could be forgiven. / Please forgive me. / Please give me a new start to life right now / and life forever with you someday. / Thank you! / In Jesus' name Amen.

Be prepared to talk more with club members later.

BIBLE MEMORY

Choose one of the verses from this lesson for the kids to memorize: Romans 8:38-39; John 16:33 or Philippians 4:6-7.

CLOSING PRAYER

We're going to do one of the main things we should do when we feel afraid—we're going to pray. Pray for safety and for good health. Pray silently to God about the things you fear. Tell Him how you feel. Ask Him for His peace and protection. Allow time.