

Back to School

—→ with God ←—



Children's Prayer Activities & Crafts

Our 2023 theme is “Be Strong and Brave”, exploring Joshua 1:1-9. The **BSG23** All-age Service is interactive and child-friendly, however some churches may prefer to use the interactive Bible teaching at the start of the All-age Service as a ‘children’s talk’ and then take children out to Sunday Club or Kids’ Church. Others may like to take younger children to the side and keep them busy throughout the service, or explore the theme **Be Strong and Brave** with children at a midweek club. Here are some prayer and craft ideas to help you do this.

Prayer Activities

- **Being Brave**

You will need: means to show a video, Bibles, sheets of coloured card.

1. Read the Bible passage, Joshua 1:1-9.
2. Show “[Joshua Leads](#)” story video by Saddleback Kids.
3. Ask for a few volunteers to tell you about Joshua and what they just heard.
4. Ask for words to describe how Joshua might have felt.
5. Cut out the letters B, R, A, V, E, S, T, R, O, N, G from coloured card.
6. Invite each child to write their name and school name on a letter (children can double up on each letter if you make them big enough!). As they do this, chat about situations that happen at school where they need to ask for God’s help to be strong and brave. Ask them to draw themselves inside the letter, or draw a cartoon to illustrate the situation.
7. Line the children up, each holding a letter (ask for 5 volunteers, or children could pair up to hold a letter if they are large enough).
8. Pray for each child, mentioning the situations they chatted about.

- **School Scenarios**

You will need: **BSG23 School Scenarios Activity** printed and hidden round the room. These contain the following scenarios:

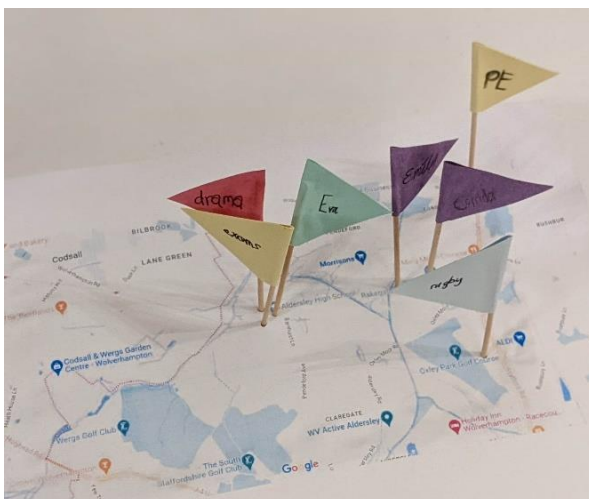
- When I have to leave my mum...
- When I forget my lunchbox...
- When the class is noisy...
- When I have to read out loud...
- When I have to mix and make new friends...
- When I sleep in and am late for school...

- When I forget to do my homework...
 - When I fall out with a friend...
 - When I get a new teacher or class...
 - When I move to a new school...
 - When I find the work too hard...
 - When I don't understand the teacher...
1. Talk about the return to school and how it is understandable that some people might be nervous – after all, the summer holidays have been fairly long!
 2. Explain that we are going to think about things that might make people nervous about school. Around the room are hidden different cards. Their task is to go and find them.

(If you have a lot of children you may like to put them in groups and ask each group to find a different colour of card. Send them off to find them.)
 3. Invite children out to read out what their card says as you stay as a big group, or invite children to find a friend, read the cards they found, and chat about whether what the card says is something that makes them feel nervous.
 4. (optional) Download and watch the GoChatter [Back to School Video](#). This video costs £7.50 to download, but it ties in well with the theme. Children share what makes them nervous and the video ends with a reminder of Joshua 1:9.
 5. Turn the scenarios into a prayer. Invite children who have a scenario card to stand up and read it out, after which everyone says together “please help me be strong and brave.”

• Schools Prayer Flags

You will need: Cocktail sticks, paper and scissors, pens, a map of your town or local area stuck to a polystyrene tile or similar.



Make flags out of cocktail sticks and paper and ask children to write their name on one side of the flag. On the other they can write a word to describe a situation where they are going to have to be strong and brave over the next term.

Invite the children to find their school on the map. As they stick their flag near their school, invite them to pray and ask for God's help to be strong

and brave.

Once they have prayed for themselves, suggest they look at the other flags and choose someone else to pray for.

Crafts

- **Be Strong and Brave Trumpets**

You will need: card for each child, pens and stickers to decorate it with, Sellotape.

This craft is suggested as an option in the service for younger children to make while others learn the memory verse.

Write **Be strong and brave** (or the memory verse) on a piece of card. Allow children to decorate it as they please, then help them roll it up like a trumpet.

- **Mobile**

You will need: printed Bible characters, metal coat hangers, thread, a punch.



The [Artisan Life website](#) offers free printable Bible characters. Choose characters that God helped be brave and strong – Abraham, David, Noah, Mary for instance. Print them off and give them to the children. As the children colour them in, discuss how God helped each character be strong and brave.

Give the children a blank piece of paper on which to draw themselves. As they do this, ask if they have any stories of how God has helped them be strong and brave?

Attach the images to a wire coat hanger to make a mobile to take home.

Pray, giving thanks for the way God can make all of us strong and brave when we ask him to help us.

- **Be Strong and Brave Medallions**

You will need: BSG23 Medallion Template printed onto card, pieces of coloured straws or beads, thin ribbon or cord, laminator or fun foam.



Prior to starting, decide whether to laminate the sheet of 'medallions' or whether you are going for the fun-foam option. If laminating, laminate the whole sheet before you start.

Let children choose a colour of 'medallion' and cut it out.

If choosing the fun-foam option, stick the medallion to the fun foam and cut around the shape.

Take a length of cord or thin ribbon and fold in half. Attach it to the 'medallion' at the halfway point.

Thread plastic straw pieces and/or beads onto both halves of the cord or ribbon, as shown. Tie off at the top.