

Boldness

Some traits are quiet and steady. Others shine like the midday sun. This month's character trait is *boldness*—stepping forward with courage when it would be easier to shrink back.

Boldness doesn't always look like shouting or charging ahead. Sometimes, it's standing still when you feel like running. Other times, it's speaking truth with a shaky voice or doing the right thing even when you're scared.

God doesn't ask us to be fearless—but He does call us to be brave. He equips us with the strength to act when it matters most. Throughout this month, we'll learn from creation—creatures that display bold colors, daring behaviors, and fearless instincts—and from the Word of God, where men and women took bold steps that changed everything.

Whether you're naturally quiet or confident, God can grow boldness in you. Not for your own glory—but for His purposes. Boldness is not about making ourselves seen—it's about making Him known.

Character Trait of the Month: Boldness

Definition for Children:

Boldness means doing what is right—even when it feels scary. It's standing up, speaking up, and stepping out with courage because you trust God is with you.

Definition for Parents/Leaders:

Boldness is courage rooted in conviction. It is the willingness to act or speak according to truth, despite fear, opposition, or uncertainty—fueled by faith in God's power and promises.

What Boldness Looks Like:

- Speaking the truth kindly, even when it's unpopular
- Taking a stand for what's right
- Trying something new, even when you feel nervous
- Trusting God more than your feelings

What Boldness Does Not Look Like:

- Being loud or bossy to get attention
- Ignoring fear without prayer or wisdom
- Staying silent to avoid conflict
- Doing something reckless to prove a point

Memory Verse for the Month:

“Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” — Joshua 1:9

Suggested Printables for This Month:

1. Printable Character Poster
2. Printable Memory Verse Page

Week 1: The Boldness of the Sun and Joshua Takes the Lead

Boldness doesn't always mean shouting—it means shining. This week, we'll explore how the sun shows up every day with strength and consistency, lighting the world without asking permission. Then we'll learn about Joshua, who had to step into big shoes after Moses, leading God's people into the unknown.

When we remember who sent us, we can be bold in whatever God asks us to do.

Nature Study: The Sun

The sun is a powerful reminder of boldness in creation. It rises every morning without fail, sending light across the earth. It burns brightly, providing warmth, light, and energy—even when the sky is cloudy or people aren't paying attention.

The sun doesn't wait for applause. It simply does what it was made to do. It lights up the darkness. It brings life. And it does it boldly.

God calls us to live with that kind of quiet, steady boldness—to show up with courage, speak light into darkness, and not be afraid to take our place in His plan.

Discussion Questions: The Sun and Boldness

1. What do you notice about the sun's role in creation?
2. How is the sun bold without being noisy or showy?
3. What would happen if the sun stopped doing what it was created to do?
4. What does this teach us about our own purpose?
5. How can you shine boldly in your daily life?

Bible Story Connection: Joshua Takes the Lead

Read Joshua 1:1–9 together.

Joshua had followed Moses for many years. Now Moses was gone, and God told Joshua it was time to lead. That meant facing battles, stepping into leadership, and trusting God to go before him.

Joshua might have felt nervous or overwhelmed, but God gave him a clear message: “Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua didn’t rely on his own strength. He stepped out with boldness because he trusted in God’s promises.

Discussion Questions: Joshua 1:1–9

1. What do you think Joshua felt when God told him to lead?
2. Why do you think God repeated the words “Be strong and courageous”?
3. What does this story teach us about boldness and trust?
4. When have you had to step up and do something scary?
5. How does knowing God is with you help you be bold?

Journal Prompts:

1. Write about a time you had to do something that made you nervous.
2. What helps you feel brave when you’re afraid?
3. Describe how the sun is bold and what you can learn from it.
4. What does it mean to “shine” for God?
5. Write a prayer asking God to help you be bold in a specific situation this week.

Activity Suggestions by Age Group

Elementary:

- Draw a picture of the sun and write ways you can “shine” boldly for God.
- Create a paper sunshine craft with rays showing brave things you can do.
- Act out the story of Joshua stepping into leadership with courage.

Middle School:

- Write a short speech that starts with “I will be strong and courageous because...”
- Make a sun-themed encouragement card for someone who needs boldness.
- Research how the sun affects life on earth and present your findings.

High School:

- Reflect in writing: “What does it mean to be bold without being loud?”
- Study Joshua 1 and highlight all of God’s promises to Joshua—apply them to yourself.
- Choose one way to step out in boldness this week (a conversation, a task, or a decision), then write about what happened.

Week 2: Flamingos and the Courage of Queen Esther

Boldness can be quiet and graceful. This week, we'll learn from the flamingo—a bird that stands tall, gathers strength in community, and doesn't shy away from standing out. We'll also step into the story of Esther, a young woman who risked everything to speak up for her people.

Being bold doesn't always mean charging ahead. Sometimes, it means standing firm and showing up in the moment that matters.

Animal Study: The Flamingo

Flamingos are known for their vibrant pink feathers and their unusual habit of standing on one leg. They live in large groups, supporting and protecting one another. Though they might look delicate, flamingos are strong, adaptable birds that thrive in extreme environments.

They're not afraid to be seen. Their color comes from what they eat—and they aren't trying to blend in.

Flamingos teach us that boldness can be beautiful. It can mean embracing who we are, showing up fully, and standing firm when it would be easier to shrink back.

Discussion Questions: The Flamingo and Boldness

1. Why do you think flamingos are able to live in such tough environments?
2. How do flamingos stand out from other birds?
3. What does it mean to "stand tall" like a flamingo in your life?
4. How does living in community help you be more courageous?
5. When have you felt shy or unsure—and chosen to be bold anyway?

Bible Story Connection: Esther Speaks Up

Read Esther 4 together.

Esther was chosen to be queen, but she didn't know she'd one day face a life-changing choice: speak up for her people, or stay silent and safe. Her cousin Mordecai challenged her with bold words: "Perhaps you were made queen for such a time as this."

Esther didn't rush in. She prayed. She fasted. And then she went boldly before the king, even though it could cost her life. Her courage saved an entire nation.

Discussion Questions: Esther

1. What made Esther's situation so dangerous?
2. What did Mordecai mean when he said she was made for "such a time as this"?
3. How did Esther prepare before acting?
4. What does this story teach us about waiting, praying, and then being bold?
5. What "moment" might God be asking you to show up for right now?

Journal Prompts:

1. Write about a time you felt like you stood out in a crowd.
2. What's something unique about you that God can use for good?
3. Describe how flamingos support each other in community. Who supports you?
4. If you were Esther, what would you have felt? What would you have done?
5. Write a prayer asking God to help you recognize your "for such a time as this" moments.

Activity Suggestions by Age Group

Elementary:

- Color a flamingo and write the words "Stand Tall" across the top.
- Role-play being Esther and stepping up to ask for help.
- Create a "God Made Me Bold" mirror craft to reflect their identity.

Middle School:

- Write a paragraph titled: "I Am Bold Like a Flamingo."
- Discuss moments when boldness looked like quiet strength.
- Draw a comic showing Esther's bravery step-by-step.

High School:

- Reflect on your own "such a time as this" calling—what situation are you in for a reason?
- Research flamingo habitats and what it takes to survive in them—connect it to spiritual endurance.
- Write a letter to your future self about how to be bold in tough moments.

Week 3: Sharks and Peter Walks on Water

Boldness means taking a step of faith—even when you’re unsure of what comes next. This week, we’ll study sharks, fearless swimmers of the sea who never stop moving forward. We’ll also learn from Peter, who had the boldness to step out of the boat when Jesus called him.

Real courage isn’t the absence of fear—it’s moving forward with faith in the middle of it.

Animal Study: The Shark

Sharks have a reputation for being fierce, but they’re also marvels of creation. They have powerful senses, efficient movement, and a determined forward motion. Unlike most fish, sharks don’t have swim bladders—so they can’t float still. They must keep moving to stay alive.

Sharks teach us that boldness often means choosing forward motion—trusting God to guide us, even when we can’t see the whole path.

Discussion Questions: The Shark and Boldness

1. Why do sharks have to keep moving?
2. What makes sharks so aware of what’s going on around them?
3. How does forward motion help us when we feel stuck?
4. What’s something that scares you, but you feel God calling you to step into?
5. How can you be bold like a shark—quiet, focused, and strong?

Bible Story Connection: Peter Walks on Water

Read Matthew 14:22–33 together.

In the middle of a stormy night, Jesus walked on water toward His disciples. They were terrified—until Jesus called out, “Don’t be afraid.” Peter answered, “If it’s really You, tell me to come.” And Jesus said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and walked toward Jesus—but when he looked at the waves, he began to sink.

This story teaches us that boldness begins when we keep our eyes on Jesus. The moment Peter looked away, he sank. But when he cried out, Jesus caught him. Boldness means stepping out—and trusting Jesus when we do.

Discussion Questions: Peter

1. What was bold about Peter’s decision to get out of the boat?
2. Why did Peter begin to sink?
3. How did Jesus respond to Peter’s fear?
4. What can this story teach us about boldness and doubt?
5. Where in your life is God saying, “Come”—and are you willing to step out?

Journal Prompts:

1. Write about something you’ve been afraid to try.
2. What do you think Jesus would say to you in the middle of a storm?
3. Imagine you’re Peter—what would it feel like to walk on water?
4. How do sharks inspire you to keep moving forward?
5. Write a prayer asking God for courage to step out when it’s hard.

Activity Suggestions by Age Group

Elementary:

- Pretend to be sharks! Crawl or swim across a room without stopping.
- Draw a boat and color Peter stepping onto the water.
- Make a “Keep Moving Forward” paper banner to hang up.

Middle School:

- Write a short story: “If I Stepped Out of the Boat...”
- Research sharks and make a fact poster that connects boldness to their movement.
- Create a “Faith Map”—marking areas where God is calling you forward.

High School:

- Journal about a time you were bold, and what helped you succeed.
- Reflect on Peter’s failure and what it means that Jesus still reached for him.
- Research different shark species and create a visual comparing their traits to spiritual strength.

Week 4: The Lizard and Jael's Unexpected Boldness

Boldness doesn't always come from a big voice or strong muscles. Sometimes, it shows up in surprising people or small moments—when someone ordinary chooses to do something brave. This week, we're learning from the lizard—quick, alert, and courageous in its own way—and from Jael, a woman who made a bold move when no one else was stepping up.

Nature Study: The Lizard

Lizards are quick, observant creatures. In many parts of the world—including Florida—you'll see them darting across sidewalks, hiding in gardens, and sunning on warm rocks. Though small, they have amazing reflexes, can regenerate their tails, and often go unnoticed until they take action. Some ancient cultures even saw lizards as symbols of agility and awareness.

Lizards teach us that boldness isn't always loud—it can be quiet, clever, and quick to act when the time is right.

Discussion Questions: The Lizard and Boldness

1. What makes lizards so quick and alert?
2. How do lizards respond when they sense danger?
3. What does it mean to be bold in quiet or small ways?
4. How can we prepare ourselves to act boldly when the moment comes?
5. What's one bold thing you've done—even if it seemed small to others?

Bible Story Connection: Jael's Courage in Judges 4

Read Judges 4:17–22 together.

In a time of war, Israel's enemy Sisera fled from battle and came to the tent of a woman named Jael. Everyone expected a general or warrior to finish the job—but Jael stepped in. She welcomed Sisera in, waited patiently, and then took bold action that helped free God's people. It was unexpected, courageous, and not without risk—but she didn't wait for someone else to do it.

Jael's story reminds us that boldness can come from unlikely places—and that sometimes, God calls us to act when we least expect it.

Discussion Questions: Jael

1. Who was Jael, and what did she do that was so bold?
2. Why do you think this job fell to her instead of a warrior?
3. What risks did Jael take?
4. How do you think Jael felt before taking action?
5. When have you seen someone step up boldly, even if it wasn't their "job"?

Journal Prompts:

1. Write about a time you made a bold decision that surprised even you.
2. What does it mean to be bold in everyday life?
3. Describe what kind of boldness Jael had and how it's different from loud or showy courage.
4. Think of a "small creature" like a lizard—how does it reflect the idea of quiet boldness?
5. Write a prayer asking God to help you act boldly when the time comes—even if no one else steps up.

Activity Suggestions by Age Group

Elementary:

- Draw a lizard hiding and then leaping into action—talk about being ready when needed.
- Act out Jael’s story with simple props.
- Make a “Brave Moments” sticker chart for small acts of boldness.

Middle School:

- Create a short comic about Jael’s unexpected bravery.
- Design a poster with a bold quote and a lizard drawing.
- Write a short story about someone ordinary doing something brave.

High School:

- Research the lizards native to your region and their unique defense skills—compare to boldness in real life.
- Write an essay: “Unexpected Heroes: How Jael Changed a Nation.”
- Reflect on a situation where you’re being called to step up—even if it’s outside your comfort zone.