

The Right Risk

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1



Lesson 11

Focus:

God gives us courage to take risks for others.

Lesson 11

Bible Basis:

Esther 2:5-10; 3:1, 5-6, 13; 4:13-16

Lesson 11

Memory Verse:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”
—Joshua 1:9b

Students will watch first responders being thanked for helping people every day and discuss taking risks to help others.

Materials:

- Internet access

Welcome your students to class. As students are entering and getting settled, ask your students to share the bravest thing they’ve ever seen done in a movie (be sure to monitor the conversation to verify all sharing is appropriate).

If you’d like, continue the conversation by asking students the bravest thing they’ve ever seen in real life or the bravest thing they have done personally. When everyone is settled, share this video of people thanking first responders for their bravery and service [1:18]:

Thank You To Our First Responders

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFR_GdroV7E

Every day, health care workers and emergency response workers take risks to care for sick and injured patients! They risk being exposed to serious illnesses and deadly viruses. They risk being harmed in fires. Many work long hours doing this hard, risky work. Rather than being ruled by fear, they have chosen to care for other people. That’s brave!

- **Do you think first responders are doing the right thing by taking risks to care for others? Why or why not?** (Answers will vary. Yes, they’re saving lives—it’s the right thing to do. No, they could suffer harm—it’s too risky.)
- **What makes a risk worth taking?** (Answers will vary. If it doesn’t come up, highlight the fact that risks that help others are usually worth it.)

Not all risks are the same. Sometimes we do risky things just for our own enjoyment or to show off. That type of risk, though, isn’t the same as taking a risk to help someone else.

Today's Bible story features someone taking a huge risk in order to help others. Let's see what happens.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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STEP 4 ▶

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Materials:

- None

Ask a volunteer to read this week’s memory verse.

Our lesson today proves that God sometimes calls us to take risks in order to help others. Esther risked her life for her people. Mordecai did, too. God won’t ask most of us to be in a literal life-or-death situation to save a nation like Esther was, but all of us can count on God asking us to risk SOMETHING for others.

➤ **What kind of risks might God call an average middle school student to take for others?** (Answers might include: Standing up for someone being picked on, sit by someone new at lunch, not cheat on homework when all their friends are, etc.)

Ask your students to divide into pairs or small groups and share one risk they are going to take this week in order to help others. (If your class is meeting online, you can use the breakout room feature of your video chat software.) You can brainstorm as a group if the students have a hard time thinking of a risk. Feel free to offer suggestions and share a risk you will take this week, too. Ask the partners to hold each other accountable to their commitment. When you next meet together, encourage them to ask their partner if they completed the risk.

Remind your students that God will give them courage as they take risks for others. End in a group prayer, asking God for courage to take the risks that He calls each of you to take.

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