

Kids Can Speak Up

Session	Theme	Kids Create	Kids Move
Kickoff	2 Kings 5:1-5a Speak up!	Megaphones; Silhouette Mural; Sock Puppets; Encouragement Cards	“Tell the Good News” Relay; Serving Others; Ike Anns Pea Cup (I Can Speak Up) Cheer
1	Exodus 3:1–4:17 (Moses) God gives the words	Finger-Painted Burning Bushes; 3-D Burning Bushes; Mouth Memory Art; Group Burning Bush; Silhouette Mural	Speak, Speak, Speak, Go!; “It’s No Obstacle” Course; Words to Act; Shoe Scramble
2	Jeremiah 1:4-10 (Jeremiah) God gives the ability	Name Art; Silhouette Mural; Self-Portraits; Sculpting Ears	Affirmation Bounce; Fear Jumpers; Pick the Leader
3	Jonah 1–4 (Jonah) Reluctant messenger	Jonah Praying in the Fish; Burlap Bible Memory Frame; Thumbprint People; Silhouette Mural	Hot Potato; Near and Far; Jonaerobics; Fish Tag
4	Luke 3:1-22 (John the Baptist) Boldly proclaiming God’s message	Tie-Dyed Bandanas; Silhouette Mural; Illustrate Psalm 1; Change-Your-Ways Road Signs	Marble Rolling; El Reloj; Sound Ball
5	Matthew 1:18–2:23 (Mary and Joseph) Trusting God’s direction	Angel Bookmarks; Large Paper Flowers; Cookie Bouquet; Silhouette Mural	Run from King Herod; Trace Refugee Routes; Act Out Stories; Refugee Game
6	John 4:1-42 (The woman at the well) Living water for all	Living Water Bracelets; Growing in Living Water; Silhouette Mural; Cold Water Giveaway	Flowing Water Relay; Join the Fountain; Living Water; What Kind of Water Are You Sharing?
7	Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-25 (Ananias) Paying attention to God’s nudging	Silhouette Mural; Courage Beads; What Is It? Snack; Painting the Spirit	Impossible Hat; Minefield; Who Is It?; Shaking Hands
8	Acts 10 (Peter) Good news for all people	Earth Craft; Butterflies; Individuality Awards; Silhouette Mural	Freeze; Chopstick Relay; Stone Catch
Closing	Philippians 1–4 (Paul) Nothing can hold me back!	Response Activities: Backpack Tags; Act It Out; Silhouette Mural; Who Am I?; Paper Chains; Write Like Paul; Write Letters; Make a Cheer	



MennoMedia

An agency of Mennonite Church USA
and Mennonite Church Canada

PO Box 866, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22803
www.MennoMedia.org

KIDS CAN SPEAK UP

© 2014 by MennoMedia, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802. All rights reserved.

International Standard Book Number: 978-1-5138-0473-6

Cover photo by Jupiterimages / Pixland / Thinkstock

Writer: Sarah Kipfer, Project Director: Mary Ann Weber, Designer: Reuben Graham

The following titles were used in the writing of *Kids Can Speak Up*:

- Fast, Barbara Pankratz, and Jan Glanzer. *Come and See: God's Brave Followers*. Herald Bible School Series. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1989.
- Klippenstein, LaVerna. *The Savior Comes*. Rev. ed. The Foundation Series, Grades 3 and 4. Newton, KS: Faith & Life Press, 1981.
- Nielsen, Jean. *Let My People Go*. The Foundation Series, Grades 3 and 4. Newton, KS: Faith & Life Press, 1978.
- Snyder, Eleanor, project director. *Be Bold! God Is with You*. Vacation Bible School. Scottsdale, PA: Faith & Life Resources, 2006.
- Snyder, Eleanor. *Simon Peter*. Newton, KS: Faith & Life Press, 1994.
- Weber, Mary Ann, project director. *Take Me to the Water*. Vacation Bible School. Harrisonburg, VA: Faith & Life Resources, 2011.

All rights reserved. This publication may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in whole or in part, in any form, by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without prior permission of the copyright owners.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture text is quoted, with permission, from the New Revised Standard Version, © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Kids Can Speak Up

Table of Contents

GETTING STARTED	4
About the theme.....	4
About the children.....	4
About the leaders.....	4
About the format.....	5
RESOURCES.....	6
Kids cluster.....	6
Songs.....	8
Bible verses & tips.....	10
Book list.....	11
Snacks.....	11
Extended craft project.....	13
Tips on managing unwanted behavior.....	14
SESSION OUTLINES.....	15
Kickoff session: Speak up!.....	15
Session 1: Moses: God gives the words.....	21
Session 2: Jeremiah: God gives the ability.....	29
Session 3: Jonah: Reluctant messenger.....	35
Session 4: John the Baptist: Boldly proclaiming God's message.....	43
Session 5: Mary and Joseph: Trusting God's direction.....	51
Session 6: The woman at the well: Living water for all.....	59
Session 7: Ananias: Paying attention to God's nudging.....	65
Session 8: Peter: Good news for all people.....	73
Closing celebration: Paul: Nothing can hold me back!.....	79
EVALUATION FORM.....	86

Getting Started

About the Theme

How do we let others know about God? It's sometimes hard to find our voices and tell others about the many wonderful things God has done and continues to do. *Kids Can Speak Up* highlights Old and New Testament characters who spoke boldly for God. The children will be challenged as they consider the situations in which the characters found themselves and the actions and words they used to convey God's message. Just as people in the Bible found ways to speak up for God, the children will also learn to find their voices to share God with others.

About the Children

This curriculum is for six- to 10-year-old children but can be adapted for other ages. What are these children like? If you are a parent or teacher, you know that children come in all shapes and sizes. Each child is unique, and God's creativity is imprinted upon each one. **As you get to know the children as individuals, remember that children:**

- learn in different ways
- learn best by experiencing, seeing, discovering, and doing
- have differing reading abilities
- are beginning to develop abstract thinking skills
- like to move around and be active
- respond well to loving and caring adult models they can trust and follow
- like to have friends and be friendly
- can be exclusive in their friendships and often have a best friend
- have a strong sense of fairness and of right and wrong
- are already in relationship with God, even though they may not have language for their relationship
- are beginning to ask questions and need a safe environment in which to do so
- thrive when treated with love, respect, and compassion

About the Leaders

Children's experiences of faith are memorable due in part to the leaders who guide them. **Leaders who work with children:**

- model God's love, forgiveness, and care for everyone
- are mature youth or adults who always act as adults
- do not see themselves as buddies to the children but as guides
- love children
- are energetic and enthusiastic
- have a passion for peacemaking
- have good conflict-resolution skills
- ensure that the children are safe at all times

Leaders are needed for:

- **Music:** Choose songs and lead the singing.
- **Kids Speak Up:** Tell Bible stories and lead in faith conversations.
- **Kids Create:** Decide on the craft activities that will be offered, gather materials, and work with the children on a handcraft that they will take home with them. Find helpers to work with the children or lead a group if you plan more than one activity.
- **Kids Move:** Lead the games and talk about how they fit with the theme.
- **Group leaders:** Build relationships with a small group of children (up to 10 children per group).
- **Memory tutors** (optional): Work one-on-one with children to learn memory verses.
- **Prayer pals** (optional): Pray for an individual child. An adult is matched with each child and the two pray for each other. Invite the pals to join the group for the closing celebration.

About the Format

The curriculum:

- is geared to children in grades one through five
- can be used with multiage groups or with separate younger and older groups
- can be adapted for kindergarten children or junior youth
- includes plans for 45- to 60-minute sessions
- includes time for gathering, singing, a Bible story and discussion, crafts, and games
- includes 10 complete sessions
- includes resource/reference pages with ideas for opening and closing activities, memory verses and tips for memorization, snacks, a book list, additional craft ideas, and tips on how to manage unwanted behavior
- includes many suggestions for crafts and games for each session

Suggested times during each session

Kids Cluster (5 minutes)

- suggestions for early arrivals, singing, memory review

Kids Speak Up (10 minutes)

- introduction to theme, Bible story, reflection, and conversation starters

Kids Create and Kids Move (20–35 minutes)

- suggestions for activities, crafts, and/or games

Closing (5 minutes), optional

- gathering time ideas for closing blessing and ending rituals

Resources

Kids Cluster

Depending upon the setup, the children may arrive at a club session at different times. Be ready by having a variety of activities in which to engage them as they arrive. This will help prevent unwanted behavior. When most of the children have arrived, or at the starting time, begin the session.

SUGGESTIONS FOR EARLY ARRIVALS

1. **Name tags:** During the first session, invite the children to make their own name tags using paper and markers or crayons. Attach them with a pin or tape. The name tags can be laminated so that they last for all the sessions of *Kids Can Speak Up*.
2. **Book nook:** Create a place where the children can curl up with a book. Provide cushions and various books, including some found on the book list on page 11.
3. **Puzzles:** Set up a puzzle that the older children can work on throughout the sessions, as well as some floor puzzles for the younger children.
4. **Cut out speech bubbles:** Have the children cut out speech bubbles to use with the Silhouette Mural (see page 13).
5. **Drama preparation:** Invite the children to participate in the dramas and practice together.
6. **Song or memory verse actions:** Have the children develop actions for a song or memory verse.
7. **Greeter:** Invite the children to greet others as they arrive. Coach greeters to show newcomers restroom locations and where to hang coats.

GROUP BUILDING IDEAS

The children may not know each other, even if they go to the same school or church, so plan get-acquainted games.

1. **Group prayer:** Have group members share prayer concerns or joys and pray for each other. You may need to demonstrate sharing a prayer item so that the children feel comfortable doing so.
2. **I'm going on a trip:** Play this game, in which the first player says, "I'm going on a trip and I'm going to take [item of choice]." The second player says, "I'm going on a trip and I'm going to take [first person's item and own item]." Continue around the circle until everyone has had a turn. Encourage others to help when a player's memory fails. Variation: Players say, "My name is _____ and my favorite color is _____" or another topic that fits with the session theme.
3. **Untangle our knot:** Invite the children to stand in a circle and reach across the circle to take the right hand of another player and the left hand of a different player. Have the group untangle this human knot without letting go of hands.
4. **Height lineup:** Tell the children that they cannot speak during this activity unless you give them permission. Instruct them to silently get into a line

according to height. Once the group has mastered this challenge, tell them to line up silently according to birthdates, alphabetical order, grades, etc.

5. **Alphabuddies:** Have the children form groups of three or four. Invite them to use their bodies to spell out a key word from a session. The children can choose whether to stand or lie on the floor to form the letters.
6. **Dash across:** Invite the children to sit in a circle, in chairs or on the floor. One person will be “it” and will remain standing without a chair. “It” says something like, “Dash across if you have ever climbed a tree.” “It” should choose something many have done. Those who have done the activity must stand up and dash to find an open seat. At the same time, “it” runs to sit in an open seat. Whoever is still standing becomes the next “it” and chooses a new topic.

CLOSING

This is a time to send the children out into their daily lives with a word or sentence encouraging them to remember the Bible stories at home, school, and wherever else they go. Be sure you send any announcements, crafts, and other items home with the children.

The following are closing-time suggestions:

1. **Gather in a large group** or plan for a simple closing at the end of the last activity.
2. **Offer a personalized blessing to each child**, laying a hand on the child’s head or shoulder and saying, “(Name), may Jesus guide you as you speak up.”
3. **Offer a short closing prayer.**
4. **Sing the theme song.**
5. **Pick a phrase from the session** for the children to remember and invite them to shout it.
6. **Give a short blessing** based on that session’s theme (see below).

Sending blessings

Kickoff session: As you go from here, be filled with the boldness to share the hope God has given you.

Session 1: Now go, and [God] will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak (Exodus 4:12).

Session 2: Be bold as you use your special gifts to share God’s good news.

Session 3: Remember, as you face things that seem too hard, that God will be your strength.

Session 4: Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power (Ephesians 6:10b).

Session 5: May you know that God is with you wherever you are.

Session 6: May you drink deeply of Jesus’ living water and share it with others.

Session 7: Listen to God’s leading and courageously join God’s story.

Session 8: Let your words and your actions declare to all people: God is love!

Closing celebration: As you go from here, remember that with Jesus in your heart, you can shout out God’s good news!

Songs

THEME SONG:

“I Can Hear Your Message”
Text and music: Bryan Moyer Suderman
Copyright © 2007 SmallTall Music

ADDITIONAL SONGS:

“God Has Chosen Me”
(*Sing the Story* #114)
Text and music: Bernadette Farrell
Copyright © 1990 Bernadette Farrell

“God Loves All His Many People”
(*Hymnal: A Worship Book* #397)
Text: Lubunda Mukungu; translation revised by Anna Juhnke
Music: Tshiluba melody (Zaire)
Copyright © 1978, 1990 *Mennonite World Conference Songbook*

“I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord” (CCLI #23316)
Text and Music: James Henry Fillmore Sr.

“Listen, God is Calling”
(*Sing the Journey* #42)
Text: Tanzanian traditional; translation by Howard S. Olson, alt.
Translation copyright © Makumira University College, Tanzania
Music: Tanzanian traditional; arranged by Austin C. Lovelace
Arrangement copyright © Austin C. Lovelace

“Not Be Shaken” (CCLI #1352419)
Text and Music: Norm Strauss
Copyright © 1997 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Vineyard Music USA)

“This Little Light of Mine”
(*Hymnal: A Worship Book* #401)
Text: African-American spiritual
Music: African-American spiritual; adapted by William F. Smith, 1987
Music adaption copyright © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

“Thuma Mina”
(*Hymnal: A Worship Book* #434)
Text: South African text
Music: South African melody
Text and music copyright © Utryck

I Can Hear Your Message

E F#m A

I can hear your mes-sage I can list-en to you I can pay at-ten - tion 'cause I

B7 E F#m

know your words are true I can let them change me— what I say and what I do

A B7 E

I can hear your mes-sage and I can be your mes-sen-ger too.

Text and music: Bryan Moyer Suderman
Copyright © 2007 SmallTall Music
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Bible memory verses & tips

If Bible memory is important for your club, find time each session to practice the memory verses.

Choose a time to practice the memory verses: during the snack, during gathering time, before the Bible story, during craft time, or as part of the sending.

Match the children with a memory mentor to help them learn the text together.

Note

.....
Feel free to use a different Bible translation if you prefer.

The following are Bible memory options:

Kickoff session: Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity (1 Timothy 4:12).

Session 1: Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak (Exodus 4:12).

Session 2: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14a).

Session 3: The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation (Psalm 118:14).

Session 4: Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power (Ephesians 6:10b).

Session 5: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9b).

Session 6: Out of a believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water (John 7:38b).

Session 7: Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand (Isaiah 41:10).

Session 8: Everyone who believes in [Jesus] receives forgiveness of sins through his name (Acts 10:43b).

Closing session: I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).

FUN WAYS TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE

1. **Play a game using flash cards.** Use one card for each word of the memory text. Distribute the cards to the children. Ask them to line up holding their cards in the proper order.
2. **Place the flash cards on a wall.** The children remove one word at a time and repeat the entire verse until all the cards are gone.
3. **Create hand motions** to key words.
4. **Say the verse while doing different actions** (for example, running in place, hopping on one foot, doing stride jumps, marching).
5. **Stand or sit in a circle** and assign phrases or words for each child or small group to repeat. Continue until everyone knows the verse.
6. **Balloon tap:** The children tap a balloon in the air each time they say a word in the verse.
7. **Ball throw:** The children throw a ball to each other as they say the next word in the verse.
8. **Use rhythm instruments** and chant the text.
9. **Invite the children to illustrate key words** and use the pictures as memory aids.
10. **Repeat the memory text often in a variety of settings.** Do it while the children eat, when they gather, while they work on a craft or play a game, and at the end of the session.

Book List

Set up a mini library with books relating to the topic. Check with your church, school, or public librarian for these and other books. Children may look at books when they have extra time during the session.

1. Bridges, Shirin Yim. *Mary Wrightly, So Politely*. Boston: HMH Books for Young Readers, 2013.
2. Cooper, Scott. *Speak Up and Get Along!: Learn the Mighty Might, Thought Chop, and More Tools to Make Friends, Stop Teasing, and Feel Good about Yourself*. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing, 2005.
3. Dierrsen, Andreas. *Timid Timmy*. New York: North-South, 2003.
4. Jackson, J. S. *Bye-Bye Bully: A Kids Guide for Dealing with Bullies*. St. Meinrad, IN: Abbey Press, 2003.
5. Lehn, Cornelia. *I Heard Good News Today: Stories for Children*. Newton, KS: Faith & Life Press, 1983.
6. Meyer, Mary Clemens. *Walking with Jesus: Stories about Real People who Returned Good for Evil*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1992.
7. Nolan, Allia Zobel. *One Special Me: A Book Celebrating How God Makes Us Special*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2008.
8. Seiling, Rebecca, and Cindy Snider. *Don't Be Afraid: Stories of Christians in Times of Trouble*. Scottsdale, PA: Faith & Life Resources, 2009.
9. Sundem, Garth. *Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change: Courageous Actions around the World*. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing, 2010.
10. Tutu, Archbishop Desmond. *Children of God Storybook Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.

Snacks

Suggestions are given for general snacks and for specific snacks to use in various sessions. Be aware of food allergies. It is best not to use nuts or nut products.

If you begin with a meal, serve foods from the global community. Use your favorite recipes or choose recipes from *Extending the Table: A World Community Cookbook* by Joetta Handrich Schlabach (Harrisonburg, VA: Herald Press, 2014).

GENERAL SNACK IDEAS:

- Bible-times foods: pita bread, bread, olives, pomegranates, melons, cucumbers, grapes, honey, lentil dishes, dried dates, figs, and raisins
- Fresh fruit
- Yogurt with toppings such as fruit or granola
- Assorted fresh vegetables with dip
- Elephant ear pastries (to symbolize listening for God's message)
- Cheese and crackers
- Popcorn
- Muffins

KICKOFF SESSION

Serve Bugles (megaphone-shaped snacks) and carrots with dip.

SESSION 1

Serve one large marshmallow, several pretzel sticks, and a piece of red Fruit Roll-Ups to each child. Invite them to build a burning bush and then eat it.

SESSION 2

Serve one or two gummy lip candies and a handful of alphabet cereal or pretzels to each child. Encourage the children to make words with the cereal or pretzels. This snack represents the words God gave Jeremiah after touching his mouth.

SESSION 3

Serve Goldfish crackers to remember the fish that swallowed Jonah and pretzel twists to remember the prayers of the people who listened to Jonah's message.

SESSION 4

John the Baptist ate locusts and honey in the wilderness. If possible, serve some honeycomb. Spread bagels with honey and top them with raisins (locusts).

SESSION 5

Serve trail mix, a food people may eat on a long hike. Purchase a prepared mix or combine dried fruits, chocolate chips, nuts (be aware of allergies), small crackers, and cereal. Ask the children to think about Mary and Joseph traveling and wonder what they may have eaten on their journey.

SESSION 6

Serve blue finger gelatin. Stir 4 cups boiling water into 4 envelopes of unflavored gelatin and 3 packages of blue gelatin. Pour into a rectangular baking pan. When set, cut into small squares and eat with fingers. If available, serve water or punch from a punch fountain.

SESSION 7

Invite the children to try different foods while blindfolded (see Kids Create, page 67). Prepare a variety of foods such as orange slices, watermelon chunks, strawberries, raisins, crackers, etc.

SESSION 8

Offer popcorn with a variety of toppings such as chili powder, seasoned salt, garlic salt, parmesan cheese, cinnamon sugar, and/or prepared popcorn seasoning mixes. Allow the children to sprinkle their preferred toppings on plain popcorn.

CLOSING CELEBRATION

Because this is a celebration, serve cupcakes! Put a letter on top of each cupcake and have them spell out *Kids Can Speak Up*. Purchase pre-made icing letters, write with icing, or arrange pretzel pieces or small candies to form the letters.

Extended Craft Project

Each session includes a variety of craft ideas. Some children, especially older ones, enjoy working on a larger project that extends over a number of weeks. Instead of choosing a craft for each session, you may wish to do one that extends for several sessions.

SILHOUETTE MURAL

This silhouette mural can help the children recognize that their voices can be used for God. Begin the mural during the first session and add to it each week.

Build the mural on blank wall space if it is available. If not, use a large piece of paper and roll it up for storage between sessions.

At the kickoff session (and in later sessions as new children join), take a photograph of each child's side profile. Print the pictures so that the children can use the photos as guides for tracing and cutting out their silhouettes from construction paper. Place the construction paper profiles at the bottom of the mural.

Each session, invite the children to add speech bubbles to the mural. In these speech bubbles they will write something they learned from that day's story or something they hear God telling them to say.

Encourage adult leaders and helpers to include their profiles and words on the mural as well.



Tips on Managing Unwanted Behavior

- **Be prepared.** Give yourself time to read through the session and prepare. Be in the meeting area early so you are ready to greet the children as they arrive. The session begins the minute the first child arrives!
- **Be consistent.** Create, display, and review guidelines for how the group behaves together, and remind the children of expectations often. Stop the session and address unwanted behavior as often as necessary so the children know you are serious about the expectations.
- **Be observant.** Observe the different abilities and interests of each child. Keep the session active. Engage the children's minds and bodies as you teach. Let the children move around as often as possible. For example, use actions with songs and memory work, sit on floor for the Bible story, and stand at a table for crafts.
- **Be encouraging.** Reinforce positive behaviors in affirming, spoken ways.
- **Wait until everyone is quiet and attentive** before beginning instructions. Speak clearly and slowly, making sure everyone understands what is being said.
- **Be ready to apologize.** If you have made a mistake, apologize to the child or group. This can be a teachable moment as you model what it means to be a peacemaker.
- **Be a leader, not a buddy.** Let the children know you care about them but relate to them as a leader. Children respect you more when they know what to expect from you.
- **Seek help from others.** Ask an adult to give extra attention to any child with behavioral challenges. Seek counsel from other leaders and parents. If you do not know how to handle a discipline challenge, talk to someone who can help you.
- **Pray that each child experiences God's love and peace,** especially while in your care.
- **Choose to love each child unconditionally,** regardless of his or her behavior.
- **Practice peacemaking** and conflict-resolution skills at all times.

Kickoff Session

Speak Up!

.....



This session will introduce the children to the overall theme of speaking up. Some children find it easy to be bold, while others do not. As the children hear Bible stories about people who said and did bold things for God, they will see that they, too, can speak up!

Today's Bible story tells of a young girl who spoke up. Because of her boldness, her master was healed and put his trust in God.

BIBLE TEXT

2 Kings 5:1-5a

FAITH CHALLENGE

God has given us something to say.

ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Read through the entire session and decide what you will do.
- Set up the space for the various activities.
- Practice the theme song (p. 9) or other music you wish to sing. You may want to write the words on poster board or prepare them for a projector.
- Gather supplies for the activities you choose to do.
- Prepare a snack (p. 11) for the children to serve.
- Ask someone (a teen girl would be ideal) to dress in a Bible-times costume and present this session's drama, based on 2 Kings 5 (p. 19).

Kids Cluster

1. **Plan an activity for early arrivals.** Check page 6 for ideas.
2. **If the children do not know each other,** make name tags and play some get-acquainted games (p. 6).
3. **Welcome the children and gather for a time of singing** (p. 8). Be sure to include action songs, familiar songs, favorite songs, and new songs.

Kids Speak Up

1. **Begin by singing the theme song**, “I Can Hear Your Message” (p. 9).
2. **Introduce the theme of the day**: God has given us something to say.
3. **Ask the children to strike a pose** that shows someone speaking up and another that demonstrates boldness. Ask the children to take those positions when they hear the words “speak” or “bold” (or forms of those words). Say:

Over the next weeks you are going to hear stories about people speaking up for God. Many of these people do not start out bold, but God gives them strength. Throughout the Bible and even today, God gives people words to speak and the courage to speak boldly. Today you are going to hear about a young girl who chose to speak up—and we’re still talking about her boldness 2,800 years later.
4. **Open your Bible to 2 Kings 5**. Invite your storyteller to present the “Young Girl’s Monologue” from page 19.
5. **Talk about the Bible story**. Say:
 - The young girl had been captured and was now a slave in Naaman’s household. Why do you think she wanted to help Naaman?
 - Do you think you would have wanted to help Naaman?
 - Naaman needed to travel over 100 miles / 160 km to see the prophet Elisha. Why do you think he was ready to travel so far?
 - How do you think Naaman and his wife felt when the young girl spoke up?
 - When the girl spoke up, she made a huge difference in Naaman’s life. When has it made a difference when you spoke up?
6. **Pray together**. Lead the following prayer, asking the children to respond with the phrase “I can speak up” after each line.

Leader: When I see someone who needs help,
Children: I can speak up.

Leader: When I see someone who needs encouragement,
Children: I can speak up.

Leader: Even when I am afraid,
Children: I can speak up.

Leader: God, give me words to say. Amen.
7. **Practice today’s Bible memory verse**. “Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). Look on page 10 for fun ways to memorize Scripture.

Kids Create

MEGAPHONES

(INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP)

Materials: megaphone template from page 20, poster board, scissors, markers, crayons, stickers, stapler, glue or tape

- Have the children trace the template onto the poster board, then cut it out and decorate it. They may wish to write today's Bible memory verse on their megaphone. When the children have finished decorating, they should tape, glue, or staple the megaphone along the overlap flap.
- Provide time for the children to practice saying the Bible memory verse to each other through their megaphones.

SILHOUETTE MURAL

(INDIVIDUAL)

This mural will be a group project (p. 13), but for today you will just take photographs.

Materials: digital camera

- One by one, have the children stand sideways in front of a light-colored wall. Take a photograph of each child's side profile. Have them pose with their mouth open. Print enlargements of these photos on printer paper before the next session.
- Tell the children that next session they will cut out their silhouettes. These silhouettes will be part of a growing mural.

SOCK PUPPETS

(INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP)

Materials: socks, felt, glue, scissors, sticky-back craft foam shapes, markers

- Give each child a sock to make a puppet. The puppets could be of the young girl who spoke up in today's story, themselves, or an imaginary character who speaks up.
- Have the children make features for their puppets with the felt, craft foam, and markers. You may wish to have adults with hot glue guns to facilitate the gluing process.
- When the children finish their puppets, encourage them to use their puppets to talk about speaking up.

ENCOURAGEMENT CARDS

(INDIVIDUAL)

Materials: half-size pieces of construction paper, markers, pencils, stickers, envelopes

- Invite the children to make cards for someone they know who is sick or in need of encouragement. You may wish to prepare a list of suggestions in case the children cannot think of anyone.

Kids Move

“TELL THE GOOD NEWS” RELAY (GROUP)

Materials: index cards with the words “God has something good for you” written on them, one word per card, one set per team; large bulletin board; tacks or pins

- Divide the children into teams with no more than six children per team. Have them line up youngest to oldest opposite a large bulletin board.
- Place a set of the cards upside down in front of each team. Explain that the cards have words on them that make a sentence. The teams will need to put the cards on the bulletin board in the correct order.
- When you say, “go,” the first player on each team will pick up a card and race to pin it on the bulletin board. When they get back to their lines, the second players pick up a card and go pin it with the first.
- Repeat until all the cards are pinned on the bulletin board in the correct order to make the sentence “God has something good for you.”

SERVING OTHERS (GROUP)

The young girl was serving Naaman’s wife when she spoke up. Serve and clean up today’s snack.

Materials: food for today’s snack (p. 11)

- Divide the children into two groups. One group will serve the snack while the other children engage in other activities. After eating, the groups will switch roles so that those who did not serve earlier can now serve by cleaning up.

Closing
For closing ideas, see page 7.

IKE ANNS PEA CUP (I CAN SPEAK UP) CHEER (GROUP)

In this cheer, the children will not recognize what they are saying at first but will soon figure it out.

- Divide the children into four groups.
- Tell the children that each group will do one part of the cheer. Beginning on your left, number the groups 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- Assign the groups these words:
 1. pea
 2. anns
 3. cup
 4. Ike
- Tell the groups to say their words when you point to them.
- Point to the groups in the following order, slowly at first, then faster: 4, 2, 1, 3.

DRAMA

YOUNG GIRL'S MONOLOGUE

It seems like my people and the people around us have always been fighting. When I was younger, I was captured when the Arameans raided my town in Israel. I was so sad to leave my home and family!

But the Lord has been good to me here in Aram. God put me into a kind home in the city of Damascus. Here I serve the wife of an army commander named Naaman.

Naaman was very successful and favored by many—even the king! But his life was far from perfect. He had leprosy.

My mistress was so sad. Everyone knows that nothing can be done to cure leprosy. Everyone but me. I know that God can cure even leprosy. The Arameans don't know our God, but I know that God cares about them, too.

I was scared to speak up, but I knew that I just had to. What I had to say was too important to keep to myself!

Finally, I said to my mistress, "If Naaman would go see God's prophet Elisha in the city of Samaria, Naaman would be cured."

My mistress dropped what she was doing and ran to tell Naaman. I returned to my duties. Later I looked out the window and saw Naaman's servants loading some mules.

When Naaman returned home weeks later, his skin was as healthy as that of a child's. My mistress told me all about it. Then she looked me right in the eyes and stroked my hair. There were tears in her eyes as she spoke. "Thank you, my helper," she said. "Thank you for telling us about what your God can do. Your God is now our God, too. Thank you for speaking up."

MEGAPHONE TEMPLATE

