

International Conversation Cafe

Foxtrot English: Courage

Game: Divide into groups of 4 or 5. Give each group a handful of M+M candies. Each person in the group takes about 3 candies, whatever color they want. Then show the following guideline for discussion. A red candy tells about their favorite sport and why. Yellow tells about their best friend. Blue tells their favorite singer and song. Brown tells how they would spend a million dollars. Orange tells whom they would choose to take with them on a long trip. Green tells about a food they do not like to eat.

Idioms

Pluck up your courage-to talk yourself into being courageous *Cesar plucked up his courage and stopped the bully from beating up his friend.*

The courage of your convictions- the ability to act as you believe you should despite risks to yourself. *Marcella acted upon the courage of her convictions and would not take drugs.*

Scared stiff- to be so frightened one cannot even move. *I was scared stiff of inviting a girl on a date. I was unable to even speak to her.*

Bible Story

Sometimes we think people act courageously because they are not scared. However, courageous people act despite their fears. In the following story we see one group of people terribly afraid and one person acted courageously despite his fear. See if you can see what made that one-person brave.

Matthew 14:22 Right away Jesus made the disciples get into the boat. He had them go on ahead of him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Then he sent the crowd away. **23** After he had sent them away, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. **24** The boat was already a long way from land. It was being pounded by the waves because the wind was blowing against it.

25 Early in the morning, Jesus went out to the disciples. He walked on the lake. **26** They saw him walking on the lake and were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said. And they cried out in fear.

27 Right away Jesus called out to them, "Be brave! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, is it you?" Peter asked. "If it is, tell me to come to you on the water."



Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn. The Storm on the Sea of Galilee, 1630. Oil on Canvas, 160 x 128 cm.

29 “Come,” Jesus said.

So Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus. **30** But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, “Lord! Save me!”

31 Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “Your faith is so small!” he said. “Why did you doubt me?”

32 When they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. **33** Then those in the boat worshiped Jesus. They said, “You really are the Son of God!”

Define new words.

Take turns telling the story in your own words starting with, “Jesus sent his disciples away in a boat.”

Describe what you see in the painting.

Describe how the disciples felt having been tossed in a boat for hours during a storm.

Have you ever been in a situation where you thought your life was about to end and you had no control over the outcome.....in an airplane, boat, car, hospital, etc?

Who was the courageous person in the story? What gave him courage?

This story is an analogy. The storm represents the difficult things that come to us in life. Jesus offered his presence and words to give courage to his followers.

What are the words he says to them? How and when could these words give you courage?

What did Peter do that caused him to start sinking? What are some difficult things that take our attention away from Jesus and cause us to doubt?

How will this story help you when you feel scared?

Song: When I Am Afraid Psalm 56:3,4

Music and arrangement by Steve Green <http://www.stevegreenministries.org>

When I am afraid, I will trust in you, I will trust in you, I will trust in you. When I am afraid, I will trust in you, in God whose word I praise.

Repeat

In God I trust, when I am afraid.

In God I trust, in God whose word I praise.

When I am afraid I will trust in you, I will trust in you, I will trust in you. When I am afraid I will trust in you, in God whose word I praise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwEXKPaG9Vg>

