# **Disposition:** Being Courageous and confident

## **Lesson:** One

### Question/LO: What is courage? What do we learn about courage from the story of Queen Esther?

| **Dimension of learning** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
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| Learning from experience | What is courage? Tell pupils about something that you have been afraid of, possibly during childhood, or more recently, and how you overcame that fear. Invite pupils to identify situations that some people find scary and create a list eg: going to the dentist, seeing fast moving insects and invertebrates, owning up to something, speaking in front of a large number of people, saying ‘no’ when asked to do something that you know is wrong. Pupils do not need to identify their own fears, just ones of which they are generally aware. Give assurance that many people face fears and that these are very common.  On a page with two columns, ask pupils to draw a symbol or image to represent the different fears in the left column. In the right column, ask them to write how people might show courage when dealing with each situation. Reinforce the idea that people who act in a courageous way, may still be scared, but are ‘facing their fear’ and doing it anyway.  Where do we see people being confident? Ask pupils to identify people from in school, in the local area and in the news, who they think are confident. What makes the pupils think this? | n/a |
| Learning about religious traditions and non-religious world-views | Introduce the story of Queen Esther, which is in the older part of the Bible and is important to Jewish people and to Christians. Whichever version of the story you use, emphasise the fact that it took a lot of courage for Esther to approach the king, even though he was her husband. In that time, in that kingdom, people were only allowed to see the king if he asked to see them. If people tried to see him without his permission, he could have them imprisoned or killed. Therefore she was very scared for her life when she went to see him. She asked the Jewish people to pray for her.  Ask pupils to create a storyboard with four pictures from the story which show her courage.  Extra activity  Jewish people to this day celebrate the courage of Queen Esther and they way that she saved the Jewish people from the plot of Haman. You might want to ask pupils to find out about this Jewish festival which is called Purim.  In the synagogue every, Purim, Jewish people retell the story of Queen Esther. They dress up in fancy dress and shake noise makers called greggers to drown out the name of Haman, the man who wanted to kill the Jewish people. During the celebration, people confidently tell the story, which ended with the Jewish people being saved from this danger. | The story is told in the Book of Esther in the Bible that is 10 chapters long. There are many shortened versions. A good simple version can be found in the Children of God Storybook Bible.  OR A simple retelling to read <https://www.friendsandheroes.com/us/characters/Esther>  OR a cbeebies film with actors  <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/lets-celebrate-purimperformance>  OR a Free Bible Images retelling  <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-esther/>  Don’t forget to download the story planner  [Purim: The Jewish festival in pictures - BBC Newsround](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/39253191)  <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000snhg/my-first-festivals-series-2-2-purim>  This is a video about a Jewish family celebrating Purim is 14 minutes long, so selected sections might be chosen |