

# BE! BOLD

FEARLESS PRETEEN CURRICULUM

# WELCOME TO BE BOLD!

**You and your preteens are about to launch on an adventure together.**

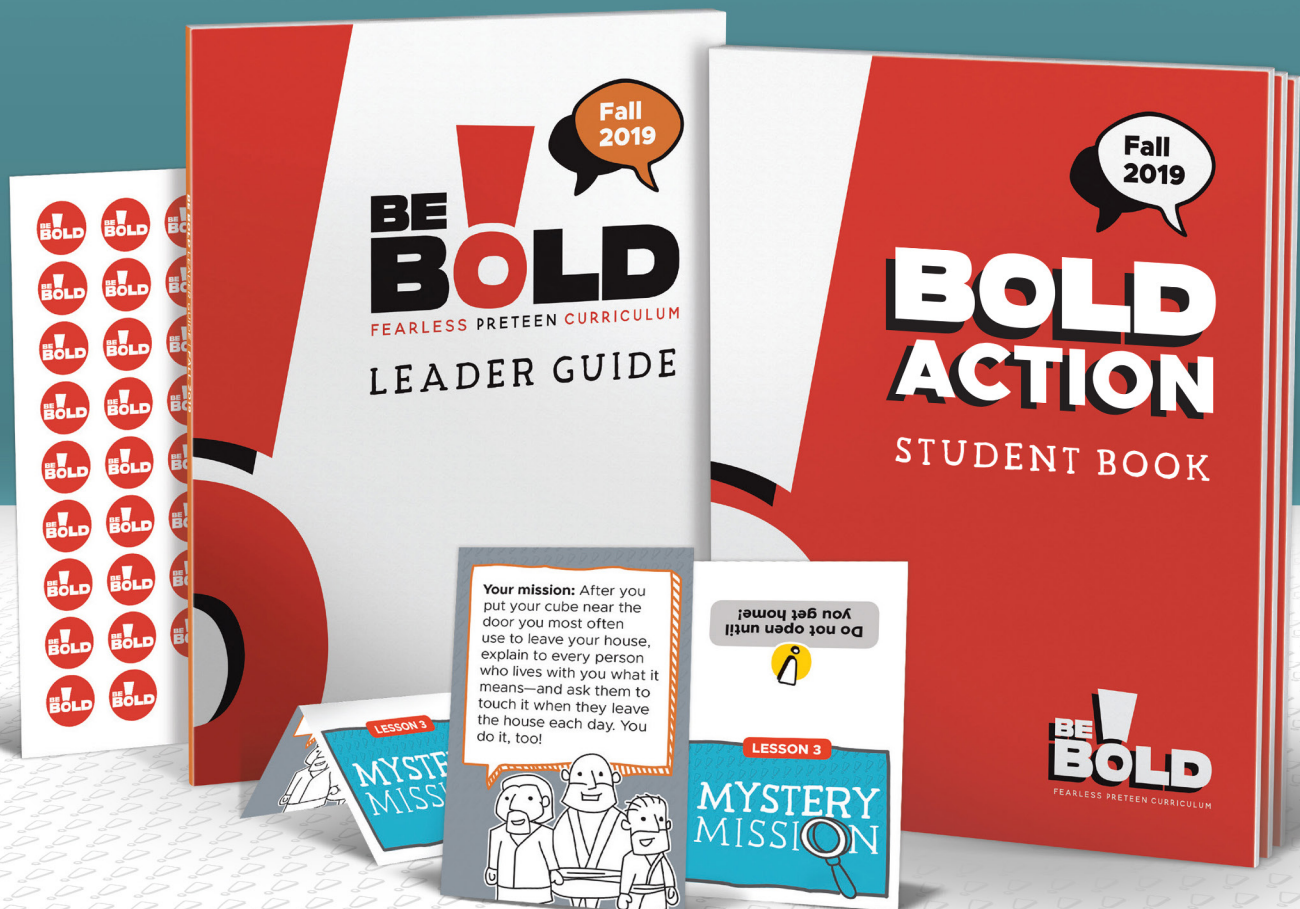
*For you*, it's an adventure of fun. You'll enter into a spirit of play and discovery with some of the most curious people on the planet: preteens!

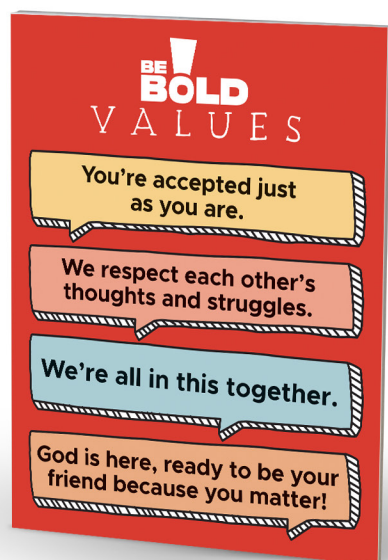
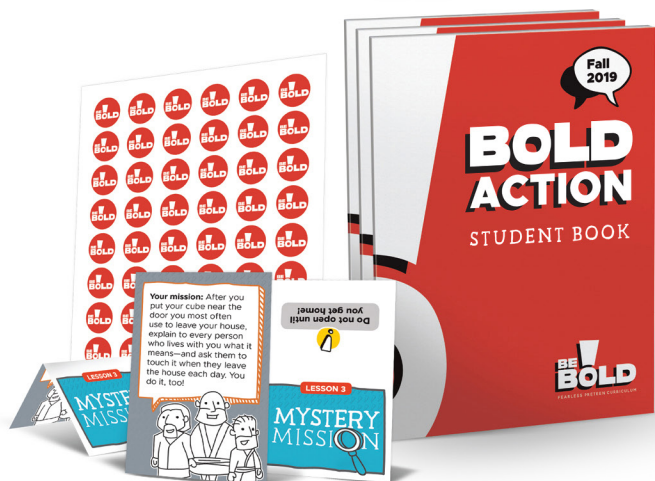
And you'll feel the satisfaction of watching kids make connections and glean insights that will literally change their lives.

*For your preteens*, it's an adventure of affirmation and exploration.

They'll dive into Scripture looking for wisdom there. And they'll bask in having a place to belong—a place that honors honest questions. They'll feel like they can make an important difference as they serve your class, your church, and your community.

Here's a quick tour of what makes BE BOLD utterly unique—and what you need in order to be ready for your BE BOLD sessions.





# ORDER CHECKLIST

## ✓ A BE BOLD Leader Guide

Order one for each leader! Check your local bookstore or [Group.com/bebold](http://Group.com/bebold) to order.

## ✓ BE BOLD Student Packs—one for each preteen

These student packs contain three items:

### A Bold Action Student Book

Because it's a personal guide as well as a supply for projects, each preteen needs a book. Keep a couple handy for visitors, too—because once your kids discover BE BOLD isn't the same-old, same-old, they'll invite their friends!

### Mystery Mission Cards

Each week you'll send kids home with a faith-building mystery assignment that helps them apply and live out the Bible truth they've discovered. It's an every-week short-term mission trip that shapes how preteens experience their faith—and friendship with Jesus.

### Mystery Mission Stickers

The appeal of the Mystery Mission Cards is that they're a mystery! Preteens won't be allowed to read them until a time specified on the card. To keep that intrigue alive, you'll fold the cards in half and use Mystery Mission Stickers to seal the three open sides.

## ✓ BE BOLD Values Poster

Having the BE BOLD Values in clear view on the wall helps set the expectation that your class is a safe space for exploration, honesty, and growth. You'll use your poster each session. (More about the BE BOLD Values later.)



# BOLD TIPS FOR BOLD TEACHERS

## **Always Read the Preteen Pointers!**

In each lesson you'll find timely tips for connecting with kids and making sure your teaching sticks. These straight-from-the-trenches insights are well worth heeding.

## **How to Best Use the Bible**

The Bold Action Student Books include the Bible verses, and we encourage you to have kids read the Scriptures there instead of looking up the verses. For one thing, kids have a wide variety of Bible literacy; finding the verses can take a long time for some and not long for others, creating boredom for those waiting. Kids may also have different translations of the Bible, making it hard for them to follow along.

(If it's really important to you that kids are reading straight from the Bible, you might want to get a set of classroom Bibles that are all the same translation and use sticky arrow flags to mark the verses in each Bible ahead of time.)





# BE BOLD VALUES

Each week you'll read the BE BOLD Values from the poster.

Do it this week...next week...every week. Every time you get together, reinforce those values.

Because you're not just reading through a list—you're declaring how things are done when you and your preteens are together. You're describing a unique culture, one that helps preteens feel safe sharing what they think and feel.

With that in mind, here's a quick explanation of how these values look when they're lived out in your class...

## **“You're accepted just as you are.”**

Preteens are accustomed to being treated as projects, not people. Adults in their lives are constantly trying to shape them, not celebrate them.

And then there's you. You'll warmly welcome preteens in all their quirky, chaotic, good-hearted craziness. When they're with you, they'll feel the same acceptance Jesus shows you.

And you'll safeguard them as your preteens risk revealing what they think, how they feel, and who they are.

This means never putting someone down, even in a joking way. Your preteens are living through a fragile age; they don't need to be needlessly poked, prodded, or be dragged into the spotlight.

## **“We respect each other's thoughts and struggles.”**

When you make room for preteens to share their opinions and admit they're struggling, you're being respectful and letting your preteens know they can trust you.

And it's okay for you to admit you don't always have all the answers, by the way. Some questions you explore in BE BOLD may not *have* clear answers—so say so and together explore what light the Bible can shed on the issue at hand.

Don't pretend to have answers you don't have. Instead, help kids find their own answers. It's empowering. It's enlightening. It's affirming. (If you feel really unequipped, refer them to your pastor or other informed adults.)

Those are answers kids will hang onto forever.

## **“We're all in this together.”**

Preteens are social animals so give your kids a place to belong: in your class!

BE BOLD is carefully designed to create community by encouraging conversation, having kids serve alongside and with one another, and experiencing adventure together.

And you're part of that community, too. Along the way you'll be asked to reveal age-appropriate stories from your life, and that's strategic. It helps preteens see you as a real person who's also growing.

You're all in it together!

## **“God is here, ready to be your friend because you matter!”**

Before Jesus died on the cross, he called his disciples “friends.”

Jesus declared in one simple sentence what relationship he most wants with you and your preteens: a vibrant, dynamic friendship that fuels your desire to love him, obey him, and embrace him.

You'll help that happen by sometimes asking your preteens to be quiet as they listen for Jesus' voice. By helping them talk *with* Jesus as well as talking *about* him.

Your preteens will grow in their friendship with Jesus the same way they grow closer to one another: by spending time together, sharing openly with one another, and coming to trust one another.

You're giving your preteens a place where they'll encounter Jesus and discover his heart for them. Where they'll ponder life-giving truths their Creator has tucked into every Bible page. Way to go!

## BOLD QUESTIONS

During the Question of the Week, kids read Bible verses about famous doubters Elijah, John the Baptist, and even the disciple Thomas!

## Bold Action Student Book: Lesson 1

In these student book pages, kids are asked to cut, draw, fold, crumple, and craft—turning these pages into one-of-a-kind creations.

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK (ABOUT 20 MINUTES)

Divide pages 1-3 from Bold Action Student Books to each preteen. Then have preteens form pairs. Explain that having doubts about God isn't anything new—there are even people in the Bible who had doubts. But the people you'll meet didn't just stay doubters. They did something with their doubt—and we can learn a lot about what to do with our own doubt by spending some time with them.

IS IT OKAY THAT I SOMETIMES DOUBT GOD?

### PRETEEN POINTER

There are no "right" answers to the questions you're about to ask, so invite a lot of responses. Your kids are sorting through how to own their faith in real time—what an honor to help them along the way!

LESSON 1 | FALL QUARTER | 7

## DOUBTERS HALL OF FAME

### The Prophet Elijah: Doubter

"After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake, there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper" (1 Kings 19:11-12).

Talk about this: When is a time you felt sort of like Elijah—lonely and discouraged?  
• What can you do to make sure you hear God's gentle whisper?

### John the Baptist: Doubter

"John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say, 'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.' I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing" (Matthew 11:10-12).

Talk about this: What can we learn about Jesus from how he answers John's doubts?

### Disciple Thomas: Doubter

"Then Jesus told him, 'You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.' " (John 20:19-2:28).

Talk about this: What can we learn about our own doubts from how he answers Thomas' doubts?

### Want to know more about our Hall-of-Fame Doubters?

- Elijah was feeling alone and forgotten by God—(1 Kings 18-19)
- John the Baptist must have wondered why Jesus didn't do what John expected Jesus to do—and that led to doubt. (Matthew 11:17)
- Thomas didn't see Jesus when others did—that led to doubt. (John 20:19-29)

## BOLD ACTION

Kids will craft a Hall-of-Fame medal that they can share with others, plus the lessons they learned!

Want to know how to create a Doubters Hall of Fame medal for your trophy case? Explore these many steps and you'll have a ready reminder that GOD LOVES US EVEN WHEN WE DOUBT.

## MAKE A MEDAL!

- STEP 1: Wrap foil around your paper plate.
- STEP 2: Tape foil in place.
- STEP 3: Cut out both of those markers and tape in place.
- STEP 4: Using a ballpoint pen, gently create an image in the middle of your medal.
- STEP 5: Take your medal home and display it proudly!

WHEN IN DOUBT, CHECK WITH GOD. TALK TO PEOPLE. ...STICK WITH IT...





## Bold Action Student Book: Lesson 3

Student book pages include Scripture for kids to read and talk about.

To Begin Boldly, kids will use the gold paper from their student book to create a gold statue.

During Question of the Week, kids put themselves into the shoes of different characters from the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

### ASTROLOGERS

You're some of the king's officials, and you've been watching Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. It's time to decide if you're going to go tell the king what they've done.

READ AND THEN DISCUSS THESE PASSAGES ADAPTED FROM THE BIBLE BOOK OF DANIEL, CHAPTER 3:

But some astrologers went to the king. They said, "Long live the king! You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue. That decree also states that those who refuse to obey must be thrown into a blazing furnace."

"But there are some Jews—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—who you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up."

During Bold Action, kids create two paper cubes that will help them remember what to do when life gets tough—one for themselves, and one to share.

After reading the story, they answer questions about what kinds of choices their characters made.

### SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO

**Now, you three worship God. But your king who's also your boss, built a statue and you've got some choices to make.**

AND THEN DISCUSS THESE PASSAGES ADAPTED FROM THE BIBLE BOOK OF DANIEL, CHAPTER 3:

Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and set it up in the province of Babylon. Then he sent messages to the officials to come to the dedication of the statue. So all these officials came.

Then a herald shouted out, "People of all races and nations and languages, listen to the king's command! When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the statue. Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

Because you worship God alone, you don't obey the new law...and the king finds out.

Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. Nebuchadnezzar said, "Is it true that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace."

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us. Your Majesty, But even if he doesn't, we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

- What choices did you three make?
- How were your choices good—or not so good?



THIS DAY...  
NO MATTER WHAT THIS DAY BRINGS, I CHOOSE TO TRUST IN GOD

I CHOOSE PEACE

I CHOOSE

I CHOOSE

I CHOOSE PEACE

I CHOOSE LOVE

NO MATTER WHAT THIS DAY BRINGS, I CHOOSE TO TRUST IN GOD

I CHOOSE TO WALK IN BOLDNESS, NOT FEAR

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

—Jesus (John 16:33)



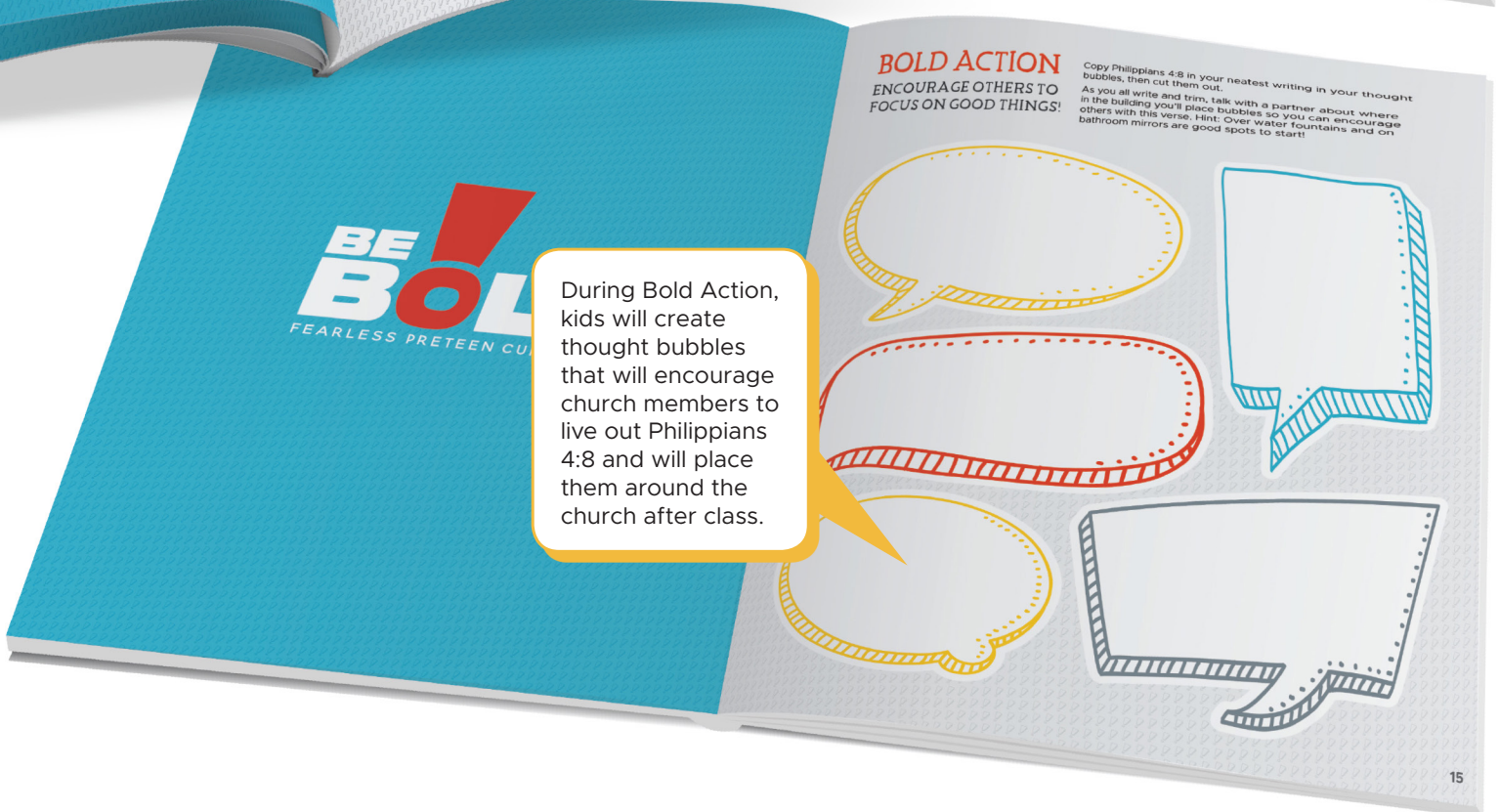
## Bold Action Student Book: Lesson 5

Student book pages are heavily referenced in the Leader Guide and include most activity materials, making it easier to prepare for class.

During Question of the Week, kids will volunteer to read Scripture verses aloud, and then use the heart to complete the activity about how they spend their time.



Kids will create a new heart with how they would like to spend their time.



During Bold Action, kids will create thought bubbles that will encourage church members to live out Philippians 4:8 and will place them around the church after class.



## Bold Action Student Book: Lesson 6

By the end of each quarter, kids will have a series of colorful creations they've taken home to share with others.

During Question of the Week, kids will cut out their "Bible Truth Inspector" badges as they talk about who they trust to tell the truth.

During Question of the Week, kids will put their names into the blanks for each verse, and then talk about the questions underneath.

### LIE DETECTOR

Some lies other people tell us.  
Some lies we tell ourselves.  
If you think these lies are true,  
read the Bible passages for the truth!

**LIE: "I'm a loser."**  
**TRUTH:** You may have setbacks, but in the big stuff, you're a winner! It's all going to work out!  
"But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

**LIE: "Nobody loves me."**  
**TRUTH:** Actually, God himself loves you. Not only that, but God likes you and wants to be your friend!  
"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

**LIE: "Life is hopeless."**  
**TRUTH:** There's always hope—because there's always help in Jesus. Lean on him for help!  
"Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!" (Psalm 43:5).

**LIE: "I'm all alone."**  
**TRUTH:** No, you aren't. God is with you even when times get hard. Especially when times get hard.  
"Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me" (Psalm 23:4).

**LIE: "I'm ugly."**  
**TRUTH:** You're God's creation, handcrafted and unique. Celebrate that—you're one of a kind!  
"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it!" (Psalm 139:14).

During Bold Action, kids read the lies and truths on the page and identify which truth means the most to them right now.

### EVIDENCE LOCKER

BIBLE TRUTH INSPECTORS, IT'S TIME TO INSPECT!  
With your partner, read and discuss your assigned passage. You'll be reporting back to the entire Bible Truth Inspector Squad!

Fill your name into the blanks.

"For we are all sinful and have sinned: we are all full of sin, and we are all guilty. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us righteous in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from all the penalty for our sins" (Romans 3:23-24).

What does this passage say about you and about God?  
In what ways do you think what's said about you is true? In what ways are you not so sure?

this is true? In what ways are you not so sure?

"For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So how can we rejoice in his friendship with God who has made us righteous?"

FILL IN YOUR NAME TO DECODE THIS EVIDENCE

What does this passage say about you?  
In what ways do you think what's said about you is true? In what ways are you not so sure?

During Bold Action, kids will cut out the "lie detector" page and write out the truth that means the most to them right now.

Each BE BOLD Student Pack includes a set of **Mystery Mission Cards** so kids can live out their faith all week long with an exciting mission.

You'll use the included Mystery Mission Stickers to seal the cards on three sides so kids can't peek!

Teachers will complete the Mystery Missions too, so they can share with the kids how it went!

All Mystery Mission Cards are perforated so that they are easy to tear out.

**Your mission:** After you put your cube near the door you most often use to leave your house, explain to every person who lives with you what it means—and ask them to touch it when they leave the house each day. You do it, too!



**Mystery Mission Stickers**  
Publishing, Inc. | group.com | Printed in the U.S.A.

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