

COURAGE

“The Wonder Kids’ Colossal Cash Caper”

Understanding Courage from Your Child’s Point of View:

In “The Wonder Kid’s Colossal Cash Caper,” Danny, Bubba, and Spike imagine themselves as the Wonder Kids looking for adventure. On “assignment” from Mr. Quigley, they find a money purse in the park and are faced with the dilemma of keeping it or giving it back.

Having courage means that children will be brave as they meet new experiences, difficult situations, and/or dangerous encounters. Also courage may involve being firm because of strong moral convictions. In either case, there may be feelings of fear, anxiety, or apprehension. Here are some things to consider in teaching your children about courage.

 **3 & 4 year-olds** are still often controlled by their self-centered, egotistical impulses. Because of their developmental level, these children perceive other people and things to have meaning only in relation to themselves. Their ability to be courageous may be influenced by their perceptions, needs, and desires of the moment. As they experience danger and fear, they are also learning about trust. Because of their anxiety about the situation, youngsters this age may be unable to confront and overcome their concerns. Children of these ages have short attention spans. This may contribute to their inability to follow through the situation to its conclusion. Parents can help children by being good examples of courage. Parents should hold firmly to appropriate values. Talk with your children about your values and how the children can apply them in specific situations. Be consistent in your own life. Let your children experience that they can trust you.

 **5 & 6 year-olds** are likely to follow directions in order to receive rewards, avoid punishment, or satisfy an authority figure. These children are emotionally attached to parents and teachers. They crave approval. Therefore, they are usually willing to do what adults ask them to do and to believe anything that adults say...unless the adults have shown themselves to be untrustworthy. Youngsters these ages are still learning by what they observe their parents do. Parents must maintain good examples of courageous behavior. For example, if you find money, do you keep it or do you seek its owner? Assist children to verbalize their feelings as they examine situations, consider possible alternative responses, discuss the consequences of each response, select one line of action and evaluate the results.

 **7 & 9 year-olds** are becoming more sociable and enjoy playing with other children. Rules are more meaningful. Youngsters are developing judgment and have a strong sense of property rights, at least regarding their own property. Parents can continue to model courage by examples in their own lives. Share your thought process aloud with your children. Help youngsters discuss their viewpoint, i.e., why they made the decision they made and why they behaved as they did. Perhaps their decisions and behaviors are appropriate for the situation. Or if their decisions are inadvisable, help children think about the reasons as well as examine more appropriate alternatives.

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Follow Up Activities for You and Your Child

During the video, you may want to occasionally stop it and ask your children: “What do you think you would do (or feel or say) in this story?” Then, watch how the program ends.

After the program, you may want to try these activities:

- 1 Ask your children to share what they thought about the story. What character was their favorite? What character was most like them? In what ways?
- 2 Look through your newspaper with your children and find articles about acts of courage. Consider these questions: Who performed the act of courage? What did they do? When and where was the act of courage accomplished? How did they carry it out? How will this act of courage affect other people?
- 3 Provide crayons or pencils for your children to draw pictures of people they would consider courageous heroes. Ask youngsters to tell you about why they think the person is a hero. If possible, have your children dictate these reasons as you write them on their picture.
- 4 Tell your children stories about times when your faith influenced your actions. Alternatively, tell about a time when you could have helped someone or taken a courageous action and regret that you failed to do so. Describe the lessons that you think God may have been teaching you.
- 5 Have a family meeting where you talk about the importance of courage. Ask each family member to share about one of the most courageous things they ever did or describe one of the most courageous people they have ever met.
- 6 Learn and sing together one of the songs from "The Wonder Kids’ Colossal Cash Caper."



Supplemental Materials for You and Your Child

Additional resources and can be found at: www.quigleysvillage.net