

Children's Story:

Courage

Leaders' notes: You will need enough elastic bands for all the children, different shapes, sizes, and colours if possible.

Good morning. How are you doing today? I have a question. Have any of you ever been afraid?

What types of things have made you afraid?

(Share a story of a time when you were afraid. Focus on a time when you had to do something new.)

But I did it and I am glad that I did as it helped me deal with my fear. But it took courage. Courage is when we face our fears and move forward. But how do we do that?

One way is in knowing that God is with us. We do not do anything on our own.

Did you know that one of the most familiar promises that God gives us is not to be afraid because God is always with us? If you read the Bible you see this over and over again. *(Joshua 1:9, Isaiah 41:10 are a couple of examples)*

Jesus tells us 'I am with you always.' (Matt 28:20)

That helps me to be courageous. Do any of you know what courage is like? Courage to me is like an elastic band. Do you see this elastic band. *(Hold up an elastic band)* Looks limp doesn't it? Is it doing the task it is meant to do? Nope. To be doing what it was meant for, it has to be stretched *(Have a loose deck of cards that you can wrap the elastic band around).*

When you are afraid to try new things, think of this elastic band. You can even wear it around your wrist *(Have enough elastic bands for every child. Shhh, later in the service the congregation will be getting elastic bands as well.)* It will be a reminder that God is with you. When you trust in God you will be stretched but in your stretching you will accomplish great things.

Prayer:

Thank you Jesus for always being with us. Help us to remember this when we are afraid. Help us to remember you and to be willing to try new things. We ask this Jesus, in your name. Amen.

The worship resources for Mission Awareness Sunday have been written by The Rev. Joel Sherbino. Joel started his ministry at Paris Presbyterian Church in June 2006. Before arriving in Paris, Joel along with his family lived in Malawi, Africa, where for three years he served as the Associate Pastor at St. Colulmba (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian). Joel has recently been appointed as the Malawi Liaison for International Ministries with The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Joel is married to Rebecca Sherbino, Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Raw Soup Social Enterprise. They are the proud parents of Isaac, Masika, and Canaan.