

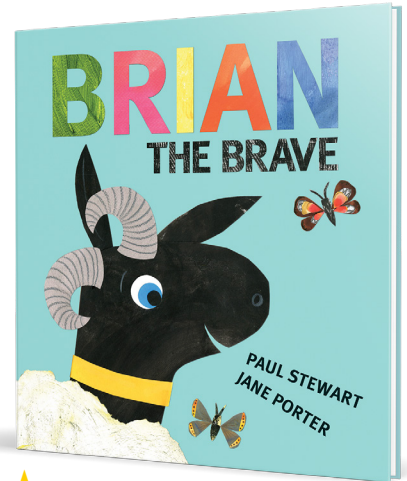
# READ★PRAY★WONDER★PLAY

## A GUIDE TO SHARING STORIES WITH CHILDREN

### Brian the Brave

By Paul Stewart & Jane Porter

We often encourage our children to be brave—when getting a shot at the doctor’s office or during a loud thunderstorm—but what does it mean to be brave? *Brave* can be defined as having or displaying courage, resolution, or daring; or dealing with dangerous or difficult things without fear. In the story, *Brian the Brave*, Brian the sheep is a good example of bravery as he boldly speaks out, determined to face his friends when they don’t want to play with those who are different—a difficult situation indeed! When a dangerous threat arrives in the form of a wolf, Brian rallies the sheep to work together to fend off the wolf, recognizing that coming together is more important than differences. With colorful and whimsical illustrations, this story demonstrates not just facing fears but also knowing what is worth standing up for and using problem solving skills to work together.



### ★ ★ WONDER TOGETHER ★ ★

- What do you like to do when you meet new friends?
- What feelings does Brian have at different times in this story? When have you had similar feelings?
- *With older children:* As new sheep arrive, they create new groups with whom they want to play. What made Brian say, “We are all STILL SHEEP!” and what do you think he meant by that?
- *With older children:* Why should Stanley have known better?
- How is Brian brave? Talk together about how standing up to others when they are unkind and facing a dangerous situation are both examples of bravery.
- When is a time you have been brave? How did that make you feel?
- What part of the story do you like best? Why?

### ★ ★ EXPLORE THE STORY ★ ★

- *Brian the Brave* uses an adjective—*brave*—to describe the character of Brian. Do an internet search for “words to describe character” to see word lists. Talk together about one or more words that your child would choose to describe themselves. Have them choose one and draw a picture or act out a scene depicting that characteristic.
- Imagine possible situations in which you may need to be brave and strategies for being brave. Role play together to practice different scenarios and approaches.
- Play Brave Bingo! Make a Bingo card of any size (3x3, 4x4, or 5x5) and put different challenges or situations that might call for bravery that your child, and even you, face. As one is faced, mark it off and celebrate when a row, and then the whole card, is filled.

### PRAY

Dear God, thank you for being with us when we are brave and when we are scared. Help us have the courage to do and say what is right and what is kind. Amen.



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There are many examples of people who are brave in the Bible and what they did when they found themselves in situations that required courage. Read one or more stories below from the Bible or a Bible storybook. What other stories do you know? What do these stories tell you about being brave?

- Abram and Sarai move to a new home, Genesis 12:1-4a, 17:1-16
- Moses is born and Miriam watches over him, Exodus 2:1-10
- Ruth leaves with Naomi, Ruth 1:1-19a
- Esther faces the king, Esther 3:1-6; 4-8
- David meets Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:1-58
- Three men face a fire, Daniel 3:8-30
- Mary hears surprising news, Luke 1:26-38
- Four friends help their friend, Luke 5:17-26
- A woman challenges Jesus, Matthew 15:21-28
- Paul and Silas are in prison, Acts 16:16-40

*With older children:* Choose one of the Bible verses below, or one of your own choosing, about being brave and make a poster for your home. Play a memory game, taking turns saying a phrase at a time to one another until the verse is memorized. If you are so inclined, turn the verse into a song by adding a tune.

- Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9b
- When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. Isaiah 43:2 (Talk together about how waters and fire can be metaphors for difficult and scary situations.)
- The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid. Psalm 27:1
- I can do all things through [Christ] who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

## MORE TO READ & DO

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO LEARN MORE

### ADDITIONAL DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCE FOR *BRIAN THE BRAVE*

- Download the [Activity Sheet](#)

### ADDITIONAL BOOKS ABOUT CARING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

- [Saving Delicia: A Story about Small Seeds and Big Dreams](#), by Laura Gehl & Patricia Metola
- [Who Is My Neighbor?](#) by Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso & Denise Turu
- [Crocodile's Crossing: A Search for Home](#), by Yoei Slegers
- [Three Lines in a Circle: The Exciting Life of the Peace Symbol](#), by Michael G. Long & Carlos Vélez
- [Walking toward Peace: The True Story of a Brave Woman Called Peace Pilgrim](#), by Kathleen Krull & Annie Bowler
- [The Coat](#), by Severine Vidal & Louis Thomas

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