

# I CAN TAKE RISKS FOR GOD

**EPIC**

Week 3 – Elementary  
Resources for Parents

## **POLL | Epic Risk-Takers**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Write down these four statements: “I am cautious: I don’t like taking risks” / “I am calculated: I take risks after thinking it through” / “I am spontaneous: I take some risks” / “I am risky: I love taking risks!” Ask you kid(s) which one best describes them, and share the same about yourself!

**In which situations would it be okay to be spontaneous or risky? In which situations would it be better to be cautious or calculated?**

## **THE BIG IDEA | I can take risks for God.**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a bag of treats (such as small prizes, candy, etc). Have your child choose “heads” or “tails”. If they choose “tails,” for example, tell them every time the coin lands on “tails,” they will get a small prize. After they have gathered quite the fortune (like five to ten items), tell them on the next flip, if it lands on “tails,” they will get double the amount they already have, but if it lands on “heads,” they will lose it all. Then, give them the choice to just walk away with what they have, or flip the coin to get double.

What is it like to take a risk? It’s sometimes hard to decide because you don’t know what’s going to happen next! But when God is in the picture, we don’t have to worry. We learned to trust God

last week, right? And when we trust God, a risk for God is worth it. That's today's Big Idea: **I can take risks for God.**

## **SCRIPTURE | Joshua 2:1-15**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** *Find Joshua 2:1-15 in your Bible and read it aloud, or have your child read it if they are able. Also included below.*

"Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

**2** The king of Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." **3** So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land."

**4** But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. **5** At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." **6** (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) **7** So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

**8** Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof **9** and said to them, "I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. **10** We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea<sup>[a]</sup> for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. **11** When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

**12** "Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign **13** that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death."

**14** "Our lives for your lives!" the men assured her. "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land."

**15** So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall.

What is a risk? In today's Bible story, there is a lot of risk-taking happening!

The two spies from Israel took a huge risk for God by sneaking into Jericho. Something terrible could have happened to them if they were caught by the king of Jericho. But they did it anyway, because they knew that their job of spying on the land was a very important one.

Rahab also took a big risk for God by hiding the spies from the king of Jericho. She could have turned them in—that would have been the safer choice. She might have even gotten a reward for doing it. But somehow she knew that God was about to give Jericho over to the Israelites, and she wanted to do what was right in God's eyes.

Taking risks is tricky. You should never do anything dangerous or something that breaks the law—God would not be pleased with that! But you will find that there are times when you need to take a risk in order to do something that would please God.

Let's talk about it: How do you know when it's okay to take a risk?

### **SCRIPTURE | Philippians 4:10-13**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** *Find Philippians 4:10-13 in your Bible and read it aloud.*

**10** I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. **11** I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. **12** I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Paul took a lot of risks for God. In this letter, Paul is telling his friends that he trusts God in everything. Because he trusts God, he knows that God will help him with whatever he is facing.

### **REFLECTION | Epic News**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** *Find newspaper articles or print up online articles of current events which call for political or social justice action. Share these with your kid(s).*

**How could you take risks to work toward the Kingdom of God in these situations?**

### **PRAYER**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** *Together with your kid(s), write down different ways you can take a risk for God. Read each one together before this prayer.*

God, we thank you for helping us to take risks for you. Help us to be wise to know which risks to take. Give us EPIC faith to do great things for you.

**Dive Deeper Discussion questions:**

What risks did the spies take by going to Jericho?

What risks did Rahab take by protecting the spies?

What risks did Paul take by building new churches for God?

Read Philippians 4:13. What does this verse tell us about God's response to your taking risks for God?

Why is it important to take risks for God?

When do you think it is okay to take a risk?

What is one risk you think you can take for God?

**MEMORY VERSE | 1 Samuel 12:24 (NIV)**

