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"Backpacks and Boldness"

By
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What A lighthearted, encouraging monologue that mixes humor and reflection with the unshakable promise that God goes with us—into every classroom, hallway, and awkward moment.

Themes: Courage, Faith, New Beginnings, Boldness, Trust, School, Humor, Back-to-school

Who Speaker: Adult or older teen

When Present

Costumes Casual Clothing; Optional: Backpack, lanyard, school shirt

Props Table
Backpack
Fake Plant
Plastic baggie with squished sandwich/snack inside
School supplies (notebooks, tablet, bundle of pencils and pens, calculator, compass, lunchbox)

Why Joshua 1:9, Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 121:8

How This monologue works best delivered like a fun, humorous conversation. The speaker's tone should be lighthearted and uplifting. It can be used at church services, youth kickoffs, parent meetings, or back-to-school nights.

Time 2-3 minutes

*Lights up. **Speaker** walks on stage wearing a backpack. They plop it dramatically onto the table with a groan.*

Speaker: Okay. Back-to-school season. The wonderful time of year when you finally get your family's schedule organized and your life back together. That is... until you're handed a teacher's note at 9:43 p.m. saying your child needs a purple shoe box, seventeen glue sticks, and an astronaut costume for "community helper day"... by 8AM tomorrow.

Unzips backpack and pulls out a tangle of pens and what looks like a zip-locked baggie with a squished mystery snack inside.

Hey! I've been looking for this all summer!

Unzips baggie and takes a sniff.

Hmmm... maybe it's still fresh-ish?

Takes a bite of the mystery snack, then pauses for effect.

Maybe not.

Zips the baggie back up and stuffs it back into the backpack.

Anyway, if you're a student, this season is full of hope. New teachers. New schedule. New haircut that either launches your glow-up era... or lives forever in your yearbook photo. There is no in-between.

Rummages deeper in backpack. Pulls out a calculator and a compass, slaps them on the table.

And don't even get me started on school supplies. Why does one math class require a tablet, a calculator, *and* a compass, anyway?

Pulls out a random item like a fake plant.

And I don't even remember what this was for.

Stuffs the random item back into the bookbag.

But underneath all the spiral notebooks and snack wrappers, there's always this quiet little question: Do I have what it takes this year? Will I make friends? Will I pass the test? Will I remember my locker combo? Will I survive gym without being hit in the face with a volleyball... *again?*

That's why I love what God tells Joshua: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Begins organizing supplies across the table—tidying up while talking.

Wherever. That includes the classroom. The dining hall full of new people. The chem lab that smells like burnt marshmallows and singed eyebrows. Even the group project where *you* do all the work and *everyone else* gets the A. Yeah, God's there too.

Because He doesn't just show up for Sunday mornings and memory verses. He's with you. Wherever you go.

Zips up the backpack confidently and slings it over one shoulder.

Students—you're not walking into that school alone. You've got a Savior who knows you, sees you, and walks with you.

Teachers—He's with you in the classroom, in the staff meetings, and yes— even during standardized testing week when your patience is running low and no one's allowed to use the bathroom before noon.

Starts walking towards stage left but still addressing the audience.

So let's start the year with confidence, sleep-deprived, over-caFFEinated, and fully trusting Jesus. Because let's be real... He's the only one who's ready!

Exits.