



# *The Boy & the Ogre*

(A Story of Freedom)

## **An Adult Small Group Guide**

This story is divided into five sections including a preface and an epilogue. It can be completed in one session, or it can be expanded to more sessions. It is recommended that the story be read independently; however, it can be read aloud during class as well. Below you will find a recommended schedule for this study.

*Chip*



## ***Recommended Small Group Session Schedule***

### **Session 1. *Preface***

*Group facilitator brings baked goods to share with the group.*

1. Show the short video that introduces *The Boy and the Ogre*.
2. Read the Preface aloud.
3. Discuss the questions.

### **Session 2. *White Stone Dwelling***

1. Read this section aloud (if desired).
2. Discuss the questions.
3. Share any “Experiential” ventures.

### **Session 3. *Great and Daring Idea***

1. Read this section aloud (if desired).
2. Discuss the questions.
3. Share any “Experiential” ventures.

### **Session 4. *“Through the Gate, Silly”***

1. Read this section aloud (if desired).
2. Discuss the questions.
3. Share any “Experiential” ventures.

*Ask everyone to bring a baked good or snack to share in the next session.*

### **Session 5. *Epilogue***

1. Enjoy baked goods and snacks. Fellowship.
2. Read the epilogue aloud.
3. Discuss the questions.
4. Share any “Experiential” ventures.
5. Discuss the Culminating Questions.
6. Engage in the Culminating Activities.



## ***Preface***

### **Questions to discuss after reading the *Preface***

1. What do you think the story is going to be about?
2. Do you know why you were given the name you have? Were you named after someone?
3. What is your favorite baked good to buy and eat at a bakery?

### **Experiential**

1. Visit a local bakery and enjoy your favorite item on the menu.
2. Buy an extra item at the bakery and give it to a friend, family member, or coworker... just because.
3. Joseppi Jr. told his “story” to the writer. Tell your “story” to a trusted friend or just write a short version of your “story.”



## ***White Stone Dwelling***

1. Have you ever swung in a tire swing? What do you remember feeling?
2. Have you ever eaten porridge? What was it like?
3. What do you wonder about?
4. Can you remember a time when you caught fireflies? If you can, tell the story, starting with the words “I remember ...”
5. How do you feel when you are in the dark? (Physically and Emotionally)
6. What are your favorite kinds of books to read?
7. Think of a time when you felt nervous in your stomach. What was happening to create the nervousness?

### **Experiential**

1. Make porridge and share it with your family, a friend, or your group.
2. Experience the joy of going outside and catching fireflies.
3. Even if you're not artistic, draw a picture of the ogre as he is described in the story.
4. Visit a bookstore and just wander through the aisles of different types of books.



## *A Great and Daring Idea*

1. The ogre went to work on the grounds with his scythe and a basket of tools. Where do you think he is going, and what is he doing?
2. Have you ever made up a game? Describe the game.
3. The boy wanted to please the ogre. Who is someone you have wanted to please?
4. Do you think you're brave? What makes you brave?
5. What are some of your favorite smells? Popcorn popping? Pizza? Flowers?
6. What is something that you are cautious about.
7. Can you remember a time when you saw a new scene for the first time? Maybe when you saw the Grand Canyon or the beach or the castle at Magic Kingdom. Describe what was new and different. How did you feel?
8. Do you think the boy was fearful when he suddenly saw the girl's face through the fence? What do you believe frightened him? Would you have been frightened?
9. What are some of the differences between the boy's dwelling place and the scene he saw through the fence?



10. Do you think the scene that the boy saw through the fence was as scary as what he had been taught it was? What was the difference between what the boy had been taught and what he saw and felt?
  
11. Have you ever told someone what you thought they wanted to hear rather than the truth? How do you feel about that now?
  
12. Have you ever been afraid of someone who was close to you? Who was it? What was scary?
  
13. Have you ever reached for someone to hold their hand, pat them on the back or to hug them and felt them pull away? Did you feel that you had done something wrong or they didn't like you? Describe a time when this happened and how you felt.
  
14. Have you ever felt like the best way to care for someone was to tell them what made them happy/okay rather than to tell them the truth?

### **Experiential**

Design an obstacle course for you and your family or friends. See if you can complete the course faster with fewer errors each time you do it. Make sure this is a fun activity, not comparing yourself to someone else.

Plan a dinner menu of deliciously fragrant foods or visit a restaurant that is filled with new and delicious aromas.

Take time to swing. If you don't have a swing set in your yard, go to a park and take time to swing or just sit in the swing and relax and ponder.



## ***“Through the Gate, Silly”***

1. When the girl found the boy again, what made the boy tell her that he was playing a hiding game?
2. Why do you think the ogre told the boy that the world outside the fence was awful and scary?
3. What was the boy drawn to?
4. Why was the boy afraid to ask the girl what the sweet scent was coming from the bakery?
5. Think of a time when someone you loved and trusted lied to you. How did you feel?
6. Think of a time when you lied to someone you loved and trusted. How did you feel?
7. After the boy told the ogre the truth, he began to feel himself get bigger. What made him think he felt bigger?
8. Why do you think the ogre had told him lies about the world outside their fence?
9. Why do you think the ogre began to shrink?

### **Experiential**

1. Play a game of Hide-n-Seek.
2. On a trip to the super market, buy an unfamiliar spice and prepare a dish using that new spice.
3. Of all the spices in your cabinet, which one is your favorite? What makes it your favorite?
4. Make some simmering potpourri. Add several clove buds, an orange peel, a cinnamon stick and a bay leaf in 4 cups of water and simmer. Add more water as needed.
5. Bake snickerdoodle cookies, cinnamon muffins, etc.



## ***Epilogue***

1. How do you think the boy felt to know that Joseppi had a tiny ogre, too?
2. The boy took the name Joseppi, Jr. Do you think that is a good name for the boy?
3. Why do you think Esmerelda didn't have an ogre?
4. Why do you think the two little ogres disappeared?

### **Experiential**

1. Rewrite the story from the orge's perspective.
2. Draw a picture of your own ogre (if you have one).
3. Journal about a time when you were controlled by someone or when you didn't have your freedom to see, feel, need, talk, or trust.



## ***Culminating Discussion Questions***

1. What were your favorite parts of the story?
2. What did you gain from reading this story?
3. Would you like to be friends with the boy? The ogre? Esmerelda? Joseppi? Explain.
4. If you could be any character in the book, who would you be and why?

## ***Culminating Activities***

1. Have an end-of-the-story gathering with everyone bringing food to share.
2. Share your “story” with the other members of your group.

