

# Small Group Leader Guide

## Today's Suggested Schedule

### Greeting & Prayer (3 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

### Small Group Activity (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Activity 1: Moses's Journey

Activity 2: Courage Stick

### Pray & Dismiss (2 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

## Daniel and the Lions' Den

Daniel 6

Bottom Line

**God is always with you.**

Memory Verse

**Those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.**

Isaiah 40:31 NIV



### Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro tips.



# Greeting & Prayer



## What You Need

- ☐ A Spinning Wheel
- ☐ Prayer Chart

①

## What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall a time when God gave you the courage to do something you didn't think you were ready for. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside of you and help you take the next step! Ask God to help the kids trust Him when they feel nervous or unsure. Whether it's a big change or something small, pray that kids would know God is with them even when they don't feel ready.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

②

## What You Say

"Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation."

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

## ACTIVITY ONE

# God Is My Shield

Application Review



## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

- ☐ "Shield" Activity Page
- ☐ "God Is My Shield" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Foil
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Prepared shield example

## Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow the kids to decorate their shields in pairs.

Provide adaptive scissors.

①

## What You Do

1. Give every kid a "Shield" Activity Page.
2. Set out the coloring supplies, foil, glue sticks, and scissors.
3. Show the kids the shield example and remind them: God is always with you!
4. Invite the kids to decorate their shield however they'd like.
5. Encourage the kids to use symbols, colors, or drawings that remind them that God is always with them.  
→ NOTE: Kids could draw a time when they needed to trust God, just like Daniel.
6. Set out the "God Is My Shield" Activity Page stickers.
7. Let the kids choose and place their stickers on their shield.

## Explore Together:

1. Say: "This paper shield is something you can take home, but do you think it can really protect you like a real shield? (Pause for answers.)"
2. Say: "That's right! It can't—it's just a reminder. But God really is your shield, friends. He surrounds you, protects you, and is always with you."

Make It Personal -> Share an age-appropriate time when you were nervous or afraid, but you remembered God was with you. How did trusting God help you stay strong?

Continued on the next page. ->

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②

## What You Say

"Awesome job creating your shields! These shields are cool to look at, but they also remind us of something really important: we don't have to face anything alone. God wants to protect us—like a real shield!"

"Daniel trusted God even when things were scary. He didn't stop praying, and he didn't stop believing that God would be with him even in the lions' den!"

"Daniel was God's friend. He talked to God. He asked God for help. And when Daniel was in the lions' den, God answered. God was like, 'My friend asked Me for help. I will help him!'"

"Here's the best news: That same God is with YOU too! But how? When you choose to believe in Jesus, you are saying, 'God, I trust You. I believe Jesus died for my sins and came back to life so I can be close to You forever.'"

"And when you do that, God gives you His Holy Spirit to live inside you! It is God's very Spirit! God moves in closer than close to you! He is God with you, He goes with you everywhere you go, and He is your shield. He will help you when you ask."

"So if you've never made the decision to follow Jesus, maybe today's the day! You can talk to me, a grown-up, or another leader, and we'll help you understand what it means to say, 'Yes, Jesus, I want You to be my Savior! I want to be Your friend forever!'"

## ACTIVITY TWO

## Act It Out!

## Bible Story Review

## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

☐ "Story Images" Activity Pages

## Inclusive Pro Tips



For an option with less movement, allow the kids to discuss the Bible Story points and what took place in their story image from a seated position with their groups.

## ① What You Do

Imagine Together:

1. Divide the kids into groups of 2-3.
2. Give each group a card with an image from the "Story Images" Activity Pages.  
→ Make sure all of the cards from the "Story Images" Activity Page are given to groups. It's okay if certain groups have more than one card!
3. Say: "We're going to review the story of Daniel together! I'll pause and invite different groups to act out certain parts of the story based on your image."
4. Give the groups a few minutes to observe the image on their card(s) and come up with a skit.  
After you read each Bible Story point, invite the assigned group to act out their part.  
Encourage the kids to have fun with their expressions and actions!
5. Continue until all the images have been reviewed.

## Bible Story Points:

1. Daniel becomes a leader in the kingdom.  
→ Call on the group with the image of Babylon.
2. Jealous advisors trick the king into making a new law.  
→ Call on the group with the image of the scroll.
3. Daniel keeps praying, even when it's dangerous.  
→ Call on the group with the image of Daniel praying.
4. Daniel is thrown into the lions' den.  
→ Call on the group with the image of the lions' den.
5. God sends an angel to shut the mouths of the lions.  
→ Call on the group with the image of an angel.
6. King Darius sees Daniel is safe and praises God!  
→ Call on the group with the image of King Darius praising God.

## ② What You Say

"Great acting, friends! Daniel didn't wait until he was in trouble to start trusting God. He talked to God every single day, he trusted God every single day, so Daniel was able to trust God when he faced the lions. And God was right there in the lions' den with Daniel! He NEVER left Daniel, and He won't leave you.

"No matter what you face—big feelings, tough decisions—God is always with you! God goes with you every single step of your life! Everything you face, you face with Him.

"Remind yourself God is always with you by making a habit of talking to God throughout the day. He is with you every minute!"

## GROUPS 4/4

# Pray and Dismiss

## Prayer Activity



## Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

## What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed

## Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Pencils

## Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow the kids to write or draw their prayers to God using an index card and a pencil.

② **Prayer**

"God, thank You for loving us and always being with us. You were with Daniel in the lions' den, and You are with us too. Teach us how to go through life with You aware of Your presence. Fill us with confidence no matter what we face because You are with us. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name! Amen!"

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their shields and share one way they can remember: "God is always with me!" Challenge them to tell someone at home the story of Daniel this week.



## **Week 3 | Application Activity | God is My Shield**

**2-3 | October 2025**

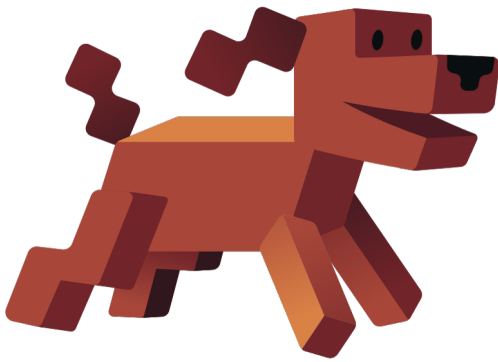
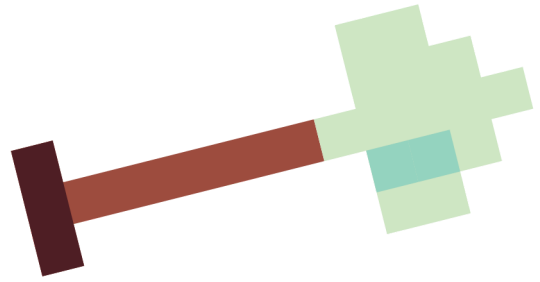


GOD IS  
ALWAYS WITH ME.

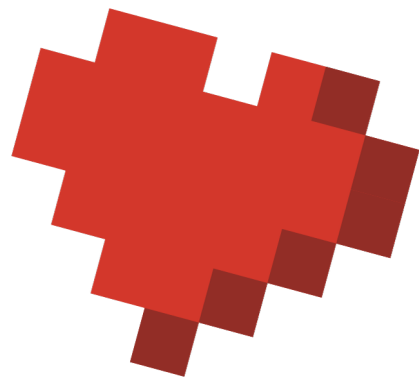
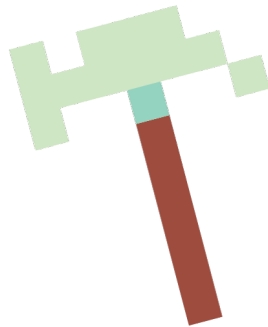
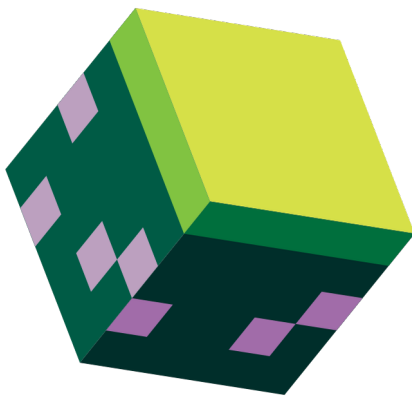
**What to Do:**  
Print on cardstock and cut out, one for every kid.

**“Shield” Activity Page**  
November 2025, Week 3, Small Group 2-3  
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ALWAYS WITH ME.



ISAIAH 40:31





Babylon—Daniel becomes a leader in the kingdom



Jealous advisors trick the king into making a new law.



Daniel keeps praying, even when it's dangerous.



Daniel is thrown into the lions' den.



God sends an angel to shut the mouths of the lions.



King Darius sees that Daniel is safe and praises God.

**What to Do:**  
Print on cardstock, one set for each Small Group.