

3-6 | November 16

Today's Bible Story: Daniel and the Lions' Den • *Daniel 6*

Conversation Starter: When have you felt alone?

Today's Bottom Line: God is always with you.

Monthly 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)

1. Opening Activity

Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God that He is with you at all times. Think about an age-appropriate time when you faced something more confidently because you know God was with you in it. Ask God to help the kids see that He is always with them, and to teach them how to live confidently because God goes through every single moment of life with them.

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Worship Loop on Jellyfin
- ☐ Floor tape

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Use tape to outline long line the floor. This is the "safe zone."
- On the opposite side of your group space, use the tape to create a starting line that's long enough for your group to stand behind.
- When enough kids arrive, select one to be the "lion."
- Instruct the rest of the kids to gather behind the starting line.

Play Together:

- Explain how to play.
 - Say: "When the music starts, your job is to get across the room using various movements (crawl, hop, tiptoe) and try to make it to the safe zone without being caught moving."
 - The "lion" will stand on the front edge of the safe zone with their back turned.
 - When the music stops, the kids are to freeze, and the "lion" will spin around.
 - If the "lion" spots someone moving, that kid who has been spotted must return to the starting line.
 - Play various rounds and allow multiple kids to be the "lion."
 - **Movement Ideas:**
 - Hopping
 - Tiptoeing
 - Crawling
 - Side sliding
 - Crab walking

What You Say:

"That was so fun! And it was so hard to keep calm when the 'lion' turned around!"

“In our true story from the Bible today, we’re going to hear about a man named Daniel who came up against a lot of lions. It was really scary, but he was used to trusting God—during scary times and all the time. He knew he didn’t face those lions alone. Let’s go discover more about who Daniel put his confidence in!”

[Lead your group to do worship and watch today’s video lesson.]

2. God Is My Shield*

What You Need:

- ☐ “Shield” Activity Page
- ☐ “God Is My Shield” Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Prepared shield example
- ☐ Foil
- ☐ Optional: metallic markers

What You Do:

- Give every kid a “Shield” Activity Page.
- Set out the coloring supplies, glue sticks, and scissors.
- Show the kids the shield example and remind them: **God is always with you!**
- Invite the kids to decorate their shield however they’d like.
- 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.*
- Set out the “God Is My Shield” Activity Page.
- Let the kids choose and cut out the designs to add to their shield.

Talk Together:

- 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.)*”
- 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?)**

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!’”

3. Picture This! Memory Verse

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible marked at Isaiah 40:31
- ☐ Print “Isaiah 40:31 Pictures” Activity Pages (x2)

What You Do:

- Select a kid to open the Bible to Isaiah 40:31.
- Read the verse aloud, then lead the group to repeat it together.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Direct each team to sit in a circle.
- Give each team a mixed-up set of the “Isaiah 40:31 Pictures” Activity Pages.

Play Together:

- Say: “Your team will work together to figure out the correct order of the pictures based on Isaiah 40:31. Once you’re finished, raise your hands!”
- If the kids need assistance, point out the numbers on the cards.
- Check their picture order.
- Repeat the verse together as a group, encouraging a kid from each team to point to the picture that illustrates that part of the verse as you go along.
- Play another round if time allows.
- Gather everyone to discuss.

What You Say:

“I love this verse from the book of Isaiah! Have you ever seen a video of an eagle flying? Eagles can flap their wings, but most of the time, they *soar*! They spread their wings wide and let the wind carry them higher and higher without even flapping. That’s how God made them, to soar on the wind.

“God designed eagles to soar, and He designed YOU to trust Him so you can soar through life too.

“Trusting God means, when you’re tired, remembering, ‘Oh, God can do that!’ It means when you need help, remembering, ‘God will help me get through that!’ Trusting God means giving God the weight so you can soar like an eagle! Trusting God is letting yourself be carried by God’s strength, like an eagle rides the wind!

“And that trust in God gives you strength! It’s not just physical strength like lifting something heavy. It’s strength in your heart and mind—like the courage to do what’s right, the willingness to forgive, or the confidence to speak up.

“So when you feel nervous at school, or when your feelings are hurt, or when it’s hard to do what’s right, remember this promise: **God is always with you.** Trust Him and let His strength carry you through whatever you are facing!”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Instead of racing to finish, help the teams talk and discuss the order of the cards as they say the verse together.

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need:

- ☐ No supplies needed

What To Do:

- Gather the kids together in a circle.
- Say, “Talking to God is one of the most powerful things you can do. You are talking to the King of the universe who is your friend. Prayer doesn’t need to be fancy or perfect. It’s just you being open and honest with God, because He already knows you and loves you!”
- Say, “You don’t have to be a grown-up or know everything to talk to God. You can pray out loud or quietly. However, you pray, trust that God is listening—and **God is always with you!**”
- Invite a kid to pray aloud for the group with confidence, as they remember **God is always with them!** If no one wants to pray, that’s ok!
- Close in prayer.

Prayer:

“God, You are an awesome, loving, powerful God. There is no one greater than You! Teach us how to live knowing that You are always with us. Help us remember how You’ve helped us in the past, and how You shut the mouths of lions for Your friend Daniel. Help us to keep trusting You, and put all our confidence in You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”