



WEEK ONE - JULY 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

Bible Story: *These Guy's Aren't on Fire • Daniel 3*

Key Question: *What does it meant to trust God?*

Memory Verse: *"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in your will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." - Philippians 1:6 NIV*

Life App: *Confidence - Living like you believe what God says is true.*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: We continue our discovery of confidence with an incredible example found in Daniel 3. Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego found their faith put to the test when they chose to obey God rather than bow down to the golden statue. They remained confident in God's power, and God rescued them from the fiery furnace.

8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - FREE PLAY

9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 | 12:00-12:10 - PRESERVICE ACTIVITY

1. Get Your Head in the Game

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Pair kids of similar height.
- Instruct teams to stand next to each other, side by side, shoulders touching and facing the same direction.
- Tell kids to move their feet away from their partners as far as possible (without falling over) so that they are leaning into each other for support. Only their shoulders are touching.
- Encourage them to now walk together across the room leaning on each other.
- Give the group an opportunity to switch partners.
- After the game is over, let kids share about the game they just played.
 - Did they like it?
 - What was hard about it?
 - If anyone fell over, let the pair talk about if it was funny or annoying, etc.

What You Say:

As you were leaning on your partner, what do you think would happen if one person decided to quickly walk toward the goal without waiting for the other person? (Let kids respond.)

*To do this game successfully, we had to rely on each other. When we adjusted our positions, we had to trust our teammates to readjust as well. [Transition] **Let's head to Large Group to hear about someone we can always trust to be there for us.**"*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10-9:45 | 10:40-11:15 | 12:10-12:45 - LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *What does it mean to trust God?. Kids trust their parents to feed them and put a roof over their heads. They trust their teachers to help them learn something new about the world. But kids sometimes have hard time thinking about what it means to put their trust in God. We hope this question starts some great conversations about how we trust God each and every day.*

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Bible Story Extension

[Application Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing/building/designing

What You Need: Index Cards; markers; Bibles

What You Do:

- Gather kids together and give each kid an index card.
- Encourage kids to draw a scene from the Bible story and challenge them to fit the drawing on the card without sacrificing details. Kids can refer to Daniel 3 for ideas.
- Be sure to draw a scene too.
 - As you look at the kids' drawings, if there is a part of the story not being represented, draw something related to the missing part of the story.
 - Potential drawings could be: The statue of gold King Nebuchadnezzar made; a band playing music; people worshipping the statue; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego before the King standing up for what is right; the fiery furnace; four people in the furnace; King Nebuchadnezzar worshipping the one true God.
- As a group, retell the story using the pictures kids drew.
 - Even if several kids pick the same scene, there will be slight differences in their drawings that could prompt discussion.

- Discuss the story with the kids. If needed, potential discussion questions are listed below:
 - How do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego felt when they refused to worship the gold statue even when everyone around them was bowing down to it? How did having confidence in God help them?
 - Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego know God would save them? Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego know how God would rescue them from King Nebuchadnezzar? Read Daniel 3:16-18. How can we remind ourselves to have confidence and trust God even when we aren't sure of what will happen?
 - Is it possible to be afraid and still trust God? Is there a point in the story where you feel like that was happening for the main characters?
 - Dig deeper - Can you think of a time you trusted God and you knew He was doing something and working in your situation? What happened? (Maybe there was a time you were afraid like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they stood before the king not knowing what would happen. Or your friends were making an unwise choice and you decided not to join them like when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego decided not to bow to the statue. Or maybe you knew you had to do something because it was the wise choice but you weren't sure how it would turn out.)
 - **[Make it Personal] Share about a time when God did something big in your life and worked in a way that proved to you that you could trust Him.**

2. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others & build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - What are ways God shows us He is always with us?
 - What does it mean to trust God? What does someone who trusts God actually do and say, and how do they act? How does trusting God influence the decisions you make?

- When is it easy to trust God? When is it hard?
- Why do we know we can trust God? What can you do to remind yourself you can trust God no matter what? (Make a list of God's promises, pray, memorize a verse that reminds you of God's trustworthiness, keep a journal and focus on recording times God showed up or times you saw God at work, etc.)

3. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Index cards; markers; Bibles

What You Do:

- Give kids an index card and markers.
- Instruct kids to pick a verse that reminds them to trust God. They can select a verse from the "Verses to Take with You" Activity or choose one they like and already have memorized.
- Ask kids to write the verse on the index card.
- Encourage kids to memorize their verse this week and to recite the verse especially in times when they need to remember to trust God.
- Select one of the verses and use it as a model to close in prayer.
- For Philippians 1:6, a sample prayer could be:
 - God, we are confident that You are always with us. You have a specific plan for each of these kids, God, and I am excited to see You work through their lives as they grow closer to You and trust You. God, there are times when it doesn't feel like You are with us, but we know that regardless of what we feel, You promise You will never leave us. This week help us to be confident and to live like we believe You can be trusted. Amen.

As kids are dismissed, hand out the monthly overview cards to each child and challenge them to look at the story that they learned today throughout the week.

