



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Tables—one for each small group competing in the game
- Avery® labels 22807 or equivalent for the Trophy Stickers (see Large Group Visuals and “What You Do”); 30 stickers for each group competing in the game
- Plastic SOLO® cups with Trophy Stickers on them; 30 cups for each group competing in the game
- Measuring tape
- Host’s phone
- Tape or rope to section off a VIP seating section for the winning group

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun music for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Honor Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- “Trophy Tower Challenge” Slide
- Trophy Stickers (printable)

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Three kid volunteers
- Bible
- Ball of modeling clay
- Some kind of finished object made out of modeling clay

Large Group Visuals:

- One Big Story Intro (Video)
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- The One Big Story Intro Video is available with the monthly download. You can find it in the "Prelude" folder under "Monthly Planning."

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Only Way
- Wide Open

The Lion Sleeps Tonight

Bible Story: The Lion Sleeps Tonight (Daniel Is Thrown Into a Den of Lions) • *Daniel 6*

Bottom Line: Honor God by giving Him credit.

Memory Verse: *Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves.* Romans 12:10 (NirV)

Life App: Honor—Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *Theme Slide*

Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: "Hi, everyone! Welcome to [your environment's name]! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad you're here today! We have a lot of fun around here, so I know you'll be glad you came.

"We've spent this whole month here in the Hall of Fame talking about honor.

CG: *Honor Slide*

"Honor is letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.

CG: *Theme Slide*

"You know who's valuable? You are! You know who else is valuable? The person on your left and the person on your right. EVERYONE is valuable. Everyone is a very important person—a VIP. Our job is to treat everyone we see with honor, and show them that they matter.

"All month we've been playing fun games to see which small group gets to be the VIP Group of the Week. The winning group gets to enjoy VIP seating for the rest of Large Group!

Point to the VIP seating area.

“For today’s game, we’re using these awesome trophies again.

Hold up one of the “trophies” (plastic cups with trophy stickers on them).

“If you were here a couple of weeks ago, we were trying to knock them down. But today, we’re stacking them up! It’s the Trophy Tower Challenge!

CG: “Trophy Tower Challenge” Slide

Note: This game will be the most fun if you can have all groups play simultaneously; however, if your supplies are limited, you can choose two or three groups to compete against each other.

“Each group has a stack of ‘trophies’ on your table. When I say, ‘Go,’ you’ll have 60 seconds to work together and build the tallest tower of trophies you can. When time is up, the group with the highest tower wins! Are you ready? Let’s count it down—three, two, one, go!

Set a 60-second timer on your phone.

SFX: Fun music

Move around the room, commenting on the groups’ tower-building progress. When time is up, use a measuring tape to determine which group’s tower is highest, and escort that group to the VIP seating section.

“Wow! I had no idea you all were such incredible engineers! Those were some really amazing towers. *(To the winning group)* [Leader’s name]’s group, I hope you enjoy your VIP seats . . . in a minute! For now, let’s stand up and worship God together.”

HOST: (Mission Announcements Here)

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER:

VIDEO: One Big Story Intro

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! Have you ever made something out of clay? *(Hold up the clay.)* Clay is really cool because you can make it into almost anything. Like this!

Show the finished clay object.

“Clay starts as a lump or a ball, and then we mold it into what we want it to be. Pretty cool, huh?”

“I thought it would be fun if we could use clay to show the action in today’s story. The only problem is that it might be too small for you to see. But don’t worry—I’ve got a solution: HUMAN CLAY! I’ll choose a few of you to come up and be mounds of clay that we can mold into parts of the story! Sound like a plan?”

“Raise your hand if you want to be human clay.

Choose three kids with their hands raised and bring them up on stage. Try to choose kids that aren’t wearing skirts or other clothing that could pose a problem as they lie down on stage.

(To the kid volunteers) “All right, you three. Let’s start the story. First, you’ll start as a ball of clay.

Cue the kid volunteers to become “balls of clay.”

“So far this month, we’ve been looking at the life of King David. Let’s fast-forward a bit in God’s Story (*hold up Bible*) to the time AFTER David was king. Israel was ruled by many kings following King David. Some of those kings listened to God, but many did not. Over and over, God’s people kept forgetting about the one true God and started to worship other gods instead.

“Jehoiakim was a king who unfortunately ignored God’s laws. He led the people in the wrong direction. So God allowed Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, to invade Jerusalem and take God’s people back to his home to be prisoners. One of these prisoners was a man named Daniel.

(Motion toward the kid volunteers.) “Let’s see if we can form this clay into Daniel.

Act like you’re “forming” one of the kids into a human shape, getting him to stand up. If he moves, remind him that he’s made of clay, so he has to be still like a statue.

“Daniel was really wise because he listened to God. Soon, he had a new position as one of the king’s advisors. Daniel served the king for many years. And when Babylon was conquered, Daniel was chosen to serve the new ruler, King Darius, as well.”

THE PLOT AGAINST DANIEL

STORYTELLER: “King Darius appointed 120 royal rulers who were in charge of the country. He also set up three big bosses who were in charge of those 120 OTHER rulers. One of those three big bosses was Daniel.

“Let’s see . . . three big bosses. First, we have Daniel.

“Re-form” Daniel so that he’s standing proudly with his hands on his hips. (You may need to whisper to him to stand tall.)

“And now we have the other two bosses.

Form the other two kids into standing figures.

“Daniel did so well in his job that King Darius put him in charge over everyone! How do you think that made the other two bosses feel? *(Pause for response.)* Right. They were jealous.

Re-form other two kids so they’re pointing at Daniel.

“These two guys tried to find something that Daniel was doing wrong so they could get him in trouble. They couldn’t find anything . . . but they DID know that Daniel followed God. So they convinced the king to make a law. It said that for 30 days, no one could pray to any god except the king. If anyone didn’t obey this law, they’d be thrown into a den of hungry lions!”

STICKING TO HIS GUNS

STORYTELLER: “But Daniel wasn’t afraid. He honored God. He did everything just as he had done before—like praying to God.

Form Daniel so that he has praying hands.

“Some royal officials saw Daniel praying *(nod to the other two kids, who are still pointing)*, and they told the king. King Darius was upset, but the law was the law. He couldn’t find a way out for Daniel. Daniel would have to go into the lions’ den.”

Form all three of the kids so that they’re doing the Home Alone scream, with hands on both sides of their faces. (You may need to whisper to them to open their mouths wide.)

GOD SAVES THE DAY

STORYTELLER: “Daniel was put into the den, with a heavy stone over the opening. *(To the Daniel volunteer)* Mmmm . . . sorry, Daniel.

Re-form the other two kids into lions, on all fours, growling at him with angry faces.

“Whoa. These lions look ferocious!

“King Darius was really worried about Daniel. He hoped that God would save him. He couldn’t eat or sleep.

“When the sun rose, King Darius rushed to the den and had the stone removed. He called out to Daniel and asked if God had been able to save him from the lions. And Daniel answered! He said this to the king.

Open the Bible to Daniel 6:22 (NIRV) and read.

“My God sent his angel. And his angel shut the mouths of the lions. They haven’t hurt me at all. That’s because I haven’t done anything wrong in God’s sight. I’ve never done anything wrong to you either, Your Majesty.

Form the lions so that their arms are around Daniel’s shoulders, like buddies.

“Did you hear that? God had protected Daniel! Those lions were perfectly fine just hanging out there with Daniel instead of trying to eat him!

“King Darius was overjoyed that Daniel was safe. He had the men who had said bad things about Daniel thrown into the den instead! And the king made a new order: that everyone should respect and honor Daniel’s God.

“How about a big hand for our human clay volunteers? *(To volunteers)* Thanks for your help, friends!”

Send the kid volunteers back to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “God gave Daniel success the entire time King Darius was in charge. And Daniel continued to honor God.

“Daniel’s story shows us something important.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“We should *[Bottom Line]* honor God by giving Him credit.

“Daniel never stopped praying to God and trusting Him, even when things got scary. And he never tried to take credit for the good things that happened, either. He was wise to always give credit to God all along the way.

“We can do the same thing Daniel did. We can *[Bottom Line]* honor God by giving Him credit—and thanking Him for all He’s doing in our lives. In fact, let’s pray and thank Him right now.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for taking care of Daniel when he was in the lions’ den. We can see how he was brave enough to trust You and honor You, even when he was in a really scary situation. And he gave You credit for rescuing him, so that everyone could see how powerful You are. Please help us to do the same thing. Help us remember to honor You by giving You credit. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

CG: Timeline

Closer

HOST: “When we look at God’s Big Story, we can see how God always had a special relationship with His people. They went through a lot! Slavery in Egypt . . . wandering in the desert . . . living in the good land God had promised them . . . and then being taken prisoner in a place called Babylon. Daniel was one of those prisoners who had to live far away from the land God had given His people.

CG: Today's Story Image

Optional: Place Today's Story Image on your timeline.

“Still, Daniel honored God. He never stopped praying to God—even if it meant getting thrown into a den of lions! And when Daniel came out of that den alive, he gave God the credit. He made sure everyone knew that God was the One who protected him!

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

“We can do the same thing Daniel did. We can give God credit—by talking about what He’s done in our lives and what He’s doing right now. We can thank Him for all the good gifts He gives us every day. We can choose to *[Basic Truth]* trust Him no matter what—even in those moments when we don’t understand.

“Jesus said that we are the light of the world. That means we were made to do good things so we can bring glory to God—so that OTHER people can see how good God is because they can see what He’s doing in us.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“So let’s *[Bottom Line]* honor God by giving Him credit.

“I bet all of us can think of some great things God is doing in our lives. He’s with us in the good times, when everything seems to be going according to plan, and He’s with us even when times are tough, like they were for Daniel. He’s ALWAYS with us through it all!

If your church is par

“Have a great time in Small Group!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

CG: Theme Slide