

Alley SG - November 23-24, 2019

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

Bottom Line: Honor God by giving Him credit.

Key Question: How do you honor God?

Memory Verse: Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10 NIV)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Paper, pens, pennies (10 per group)

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids in front of you.
- **Give** kids paper and pen.
- **Place** three pennies on the floor.
- **Give** kids 10 seconds to look at the pennies.
- **Cover** the pennies with a piece of paper.
- **Tell** kids to write the pattern of heads (H) and tails (T) shown on the pennies moving from their left to right.
- **Uncover** the pennies and **award** a point for whoever got the order correct.
- **Play** several rounds, adding pennies each round and increasing the level of difficulty in the pattern.
- The kid who has the most points is the winner.
- **Ask** kids to share some of the strategies they used to help remember the sequence of heads and tails.

2. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids in a circle.
- **Select** a volunteer from the group to be the first guesser.
- **Tell** the guesser to sit in the center of the circle and to close his eyes.
- **Explain** that you will point to someone in the group and that person must roar like a lion.
 - The guesser, with his eyes still closed, will try to guess who "lion" is.
- **Give** the guesser two chances to identify who the lion was.
 - Between each round, once the guesser closes his/her eyes
 - **Allow** kids to change places in the circle before you select the next "lion."
- **Encourage** kids to be creative in their roars.
- **Play** several rounds, switching the guesser for each round.

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Name Tags (1 per student), Markers, *optional:* timer on mobile device

What You Do:

- **Ask:** Who was in the story today?
- **Create** a name tag for each the characters in today's story (*Daniel, King Darius, the two jealous leaders, the lions, possibly the angel, too*)
- **Give** each kid a name tag.
- **Encourage** the group to act out the story. If needed, recap the main events from the Bible story (or read them from Daniel 6) to prompt/narrate the reenactment for the kids.
 - After 30-60 seconds **call out**, "Switch," and **instruct** everyone to switch name tags with someone else in the group.

- Continue the story with kids' new "assignments."
- After the retelling of the story is complete, **engage** kids in conversation by asking questions and encouraging the group to answer the questions as the character on their name tag.
- **Continue** to switch roles during the question time as well.
- Potential questions:
 - How did you meet Daniel? What did you think of Daniel when you met him?
 - What did you think of the other rulers?
 - What was that law King Darius signed?
 - For King Darius: Why did you sign a law that everyone had to pray to you? Why did you throw Daniel in the lions' den? How did you feel when you found out Daniel prayed to his God and not you? How do you honor Daniel's God now, after Daniel survived the lions' den?
 - For Daniel: How did you end up in Babylon? What do you do—what does a day look like for you? What did you think about King Darius' law? Why did you keep praying to God? Did King Darius have any last words for you before throwing you into the lions' den? How do you honor God?
 - For the Advisors: Explain your relationship with Daniel. Doesn't sound like you were Daniel's friend—why not? Why go to all the trouble to pass a law to trap Daniel? How did your revenge plan go for you—what happened?
 - For the lions: What happened? Why didn't you touch Daniel?

4. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- How did Daniel honor God?
- How can we honor God?
- What are some things we can give God credit for?
- What does it show others when we give God credit for the things in our lives? What does it tell others about our relationship with God when we honor Him?

5. Verse to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, Reference Squares Cards (5 sets per group), Verse Cards (5 sets per group), pens

What You Do:

- **Divide** kids into teams of two or three.
- **Give** each team a set of "Verse Cards" and a set of "Reference Cards."
- **Explain** teams will race to match the "Reference Square" with the corresponding "Verse Card."
- **Declare** the first team to match all the cards correctly the winner.
- **Tell** teams to select two "Verse Cards."
- **Ask** teams:
 - What do the verses you selected say about honoring God?
 - What does the Bible say about honoring God?
 - **Encourage** teams to write their answers on the back of the "Verse Cards."
- **Discuss** the answers kids wrote. Potential dig deeper questions could include:
 - Colossians 3:23: Why does doing your homework as if you were doing it for God honor Him? Or why would cleaning your room as if you were doing it for God honor Him? What does it say about God when you do everything as if working for Him?
 - Proverbs 3:9: Besides money what could be considered your wealth? What else could you use generously to honor God?
 - Proverbs 14:31: What does it mean to crush someone? Why would being kind to others honor God? *(This is an opportunity to reinforce we are all made in God's image and we should not overlook anyone but be intentional and give everyone a chance.)*
 - Proverbs 22:4: How can you show respect for God? *(If you aren't doing the Make it Personal with Prayer Activity, this is an opportunity to talk about what it means to respect God's name.)* What does it mean to be humble? Why is humility a way to honor God?

- Matthew 5:16: What does Jesus mean by “let your light shine”? How does “letting your light shine” honor God?
- Revelations 4:11: Why is God worthy to receive honor?

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bibles, paper, pens

What You Do:

- **Explain** that Daniel honored God with his faithful prayers. A prayer Jesus gave to us is recorded in Luke 11:2-4.
- **Read** Luke 11:2-4.
- **Ask:** What did Jesus mean when He said, “May Your name be honored”? What does it mean to honor God’s name? What does it tell others about God when we treat His name with honor? *(Note: This is an opportunity to talk about what it looks like for us to say God’s name respectfully and intentionally and what it looks like when we don’t. When your friend tells you shocking news and you reply, “Oh my God! No Way!” is that an example of honoring God’s name?)*
- **Give** kids paper, pen, and a Bible.
- **Give** kids some quiet time to think about who God is and why He is worthy of honor.
- **Encourage** kids during the quiet time to write a prayer honoring God.
- **Allow** kids an opportunity to share their prayers if they want to.
- **Close** in prayer.

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!