

City 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.

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

1. Quilted

What You Need: Quilt Piece Template printed on colored paper (1 per child), scissors

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids by name.
- Place the colored “Quilt Piece Templates” in the center of the small group area.
- Have each child pick a different color of paper. Instruct the kids to use the templates to cut out shapes from the paper.
- As they’re cutting out quilt pieces, ask:
 - How do you show honor to others?
 - Have you done any of those things this week or last week, as we’ve been talking about honor?
 - How has someone shown honor to you?
 - What does it feel like when someone honors you?

2. Paper Quilts

What You Need: Quilt cutouts from Activity 1, “Quilt” Activity Page (1 per group, per service), glue sticks

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to glue different colored paper pieces they cut during Activity 1 “Quilt” Activity Page to create a paper quilt.
- The group will work together to create a colorful quilt, going one child at a time, around your circle.

What You Say:

“Your quilt is beautiful! People have been making quilts for hundreds of years as a way to honor someone.

[Transition] In our Bible story, we heard about how someone chose to honor God even in a pretty scary situation.”

3. Who Is That Roaring Lion?

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Circle up the kids to sit on the floor.
- Select a child to be “it” and sit in the center of the group with his or her eyes closed.
- Tap one kid on the shoulder to quietly approach the kid in the center, roar, and then quickly return to his seat.
- Warn kids not to roar directly into anyone’s ear and not to roar too loudly if they’re close to someone’s head.
- When you say, “Open your eyes,” the kid in the center will try to guess who roared.
- If correct, the child in the center remains in her spot for another round. If incorrect, the child who roared moves to the center.
- Play for several more rounds and then review today’s Bible story with the questions below.
Points of the story to review:
 - What was the crazy rule the guys who were jealous of Daniel came up with? *(For the next 30 days, everyone in the kingdom could only bow down and pray to King Darius)*

- What would happen if someone was caught NOT following the rule? (*They'd be thrown into a den of hungry lions*)
- When Daniel heard about the new rule, what did he do? (*He kept praying to the one true God, just as he had before*)
- What happened to Daniel? (*He was thrown into the lions' den for not following the rule, but God protected him from the lions and kept him safe*)
- What did the king do when he realized that Daniel was unharmed? (*He was so happy and he recognized who God truly was—the one TRUE God worthy of honor and praise*)

What You Say:

“Can you imagine what it must have been like for Daniel, knowing that his choice to pray to God could mean being thrown into a den of hungry lions? Why do you think Daniel chose to trust God, even with that crazy law? (*Pause for responses.*) Daniel knew that God was bigger and more powerful than a hundred hungry lions. And in the end, even King Darius understood that only God was worthy to be honored and praised. Daniel knew that you should **[Bottom Line] honor God by giving Him credit.**”

[Make It Personal] (*Talk to the kids about how you honor God by giving him credit for the good things He's given you. How do you regularly show Him honor? Do you thank Him in prayer, come to church and worship Him, give sacrificially, etc.*)

4. Hungry, Hungry . . . Lions?

What You Need: Bibles, crumpled “Romans 12:10” words (3 sets per group), plastic disposable bowls (5 per group)

What You Do:

- Help kids look up and “read” the verse.
- Guide each child to find a partner and all pairs sit together in a circle.
- Give each pair a plastic bowl. This will be their “lion.”
- Throw all the crumpled paper in the middle (should be 30 balls of paper).
- Each child puts one hand on the bowl and at your signal, they slide the bowl to the center, grab one ball and slide it back to deposit the ball in front of them – until each pair has 10 balls of paper.
- Guide teams to carefully open the balls they collected and try to put the verse in order.
- Challenge kids to work as a group to make sure each team has a complete set of verse papers.

What You Say:

“Our Bible verse says: *Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves (Romans 12:10 NIV).* Daniel loved God so much that he honored God by praying to Him even though it was against the law. He honored God even though it meant that he'd be thrown into a den of lions!

“Sometimes other people may not like it when we honor God and give Him credit. But just like Daniel, we can honor God no matter what other people think. So remember: **[Bottom Line] honor God by giving Him credit.**”

6. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Index card (1 per child), pens

What You Do:

- Give each child an index card and a pencil.
- Encourage the kids to write down a prayer to God, showing Him honor, using the following pattern:
 - First, name some things you know about God. (God, You are awesome, holy, loving, strong, etc.)
 - Next, thank God for three specific things. (Thank You for my family, my friends, and my church.)
 - End with, “In Jesus' name, amen.”

- Explain why we say, “In Jesus’ name” and “amen” at the end of our prayer. (Suggested conversation below.)
- When finished, lead the kids to pray these prayers out loud together at the same time.
- Encourage the kids to take their prayers home and pray them before the Thanksgiving meal with their families OR before another family meal this week.
 - They could also encourage family members to write their own prayers using the same formula above.

What You Say:

“Do you know why we say, ‘In Jesus’ name,’ and, ‘Amen,’ at the end of our prayers? *(Pause for responses.)* When we say ‘In Jesus’ name,’ we’re giving God credit for what He’s done for us by sending Jesus! Because of Jesus, we can have a relationship with God and talk to Him, always! So when we say, ‘In Jesus’ name,’ that’s one way we **[Bottom Line] honor God by giving him credit.**

“The word ‘amen’ means ‘so be it.’ When we pray and say, ‘Amen,’ we’re all agreeing with the prayer that’s been prayed. So, right now, I want you to hold your cards up and pray the prayer you’ve written on your cards, out loud, together at the same time. When you’ve finished listing your three things you want to thank God for, listen to the friends around you and let’s all say, ‘In Jesus’ name, amen,’ together.”

PARENT CONNECTION: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their paper quilts and the prayers they’ve written so they remember to **[Bottom Line] honor God by giving him credit.**

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

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

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!