

City SG—July 3rd-5th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Just Like Fire (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) • *Daniel 3*

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

Monthly Memory Verse: God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns. Philippians 1:6 (*NIRV*)

1. Name Acronyms

What You Need: hand sanitizer, paper, pens/markers

What You Do:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Encourage each kid to use one pump of hand sanitizer when they arrive.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and a writing utensil.
- Instruct the kids to write their names down the left side of the page.
- Encourage the kids to create an acronym of their names by thinking of one word to describe themselves for each letter.
- For example:
 - S miley
 - A dventurous
 - M arshmallow eater
- Invite the kids to share their acronyms with the group.

2. Create a Rhythm

What You Need: "Memory Verse" Page (1 per group), painter's tape, Bibles

What You Do:

- Guide kids to look up Philippians 1:6 using the following tips.

Finding verses with 1st-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Philippians in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 6 in chapter 1.

- Read the verse together several times.
- Post the "Memory Verse" Activity Page in your environment so it is visible to the group.
- Encourage the kids to create a rhythm by clapping once and snapping twice.
- Instruct the kids to insert the first word of the verse as they clap the first time, the second word as they clap the second time, and so on, until the entire verse is recited.
 - The rhythm should go: **God** (*clap, snap, snap*) **began** (*clap, snap, snap*) **a** (*clap, snap, snap*) . . . through the entire verse.
- Ask the kids to increase the speed and repeat the verse again.
- If there is time, invite the kids to create different rhythms by substituting the clap for a different action. (*Some suggestions: jump, blink, hop, etc.*)

What You Say:

“This verse tells us that we should be **sure** about something very important! Paul was not talking about being sure about and trusting in our own strength and abilities. Instead, he was telling us that we can get our confidence from Jesus!

“When you put your trust in Jesus, God begins to work in you. He begins to make you more like Jesus! And He promises to complete the work He started in you. As God works in your heart, you will see yourself the way God sees you. This will give you the confidence to live the way He wants you to. You can **[Bottom Line] trust that God is always with you.**”

3. Statue Movers

What You Need: Floor tape

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- For each team, mark a start line and finish line 15 feet apart
- Direct each team to select one kid to be their “statue.”
- Instruct the “statues” to stand behind the starting lines.
 - If you have enough space, instruct every kid to line up shoulder-to-shoulder on their team’s starting line to all be statues.
- Choose one team to go first.
- Ask the Bible story review questions below (in order) to the “statue.”
- If the “statue” answers correctly, instruct them to move one leg forward as far as possible without bending at the knee.
- They may get help from their team to answer the questions.
- Move back and forth between teams as you ask the questions. The first team to get their “statue” past the finish line, wins.
 - *Note: If you play the game with everyone as a statue, the entire team may take one “statue step” forward when their team answers a question correctly.*
- Bible Story Review Questions
 1. What was the name of the king in our Bible story today? (*King Nebuchadnezzar*)
 2. How tall was the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar made? (*90 feet*)
 3. What were the names of the three Jewish men who were brought to Babylon as captives? (*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego*)
 4. What did the king demand everyone do when they heard the music? (*bow down and worship the gold statue*)
 5. What would happen if you DIDN’T bow down and worship the gold statue? (*You would be thrown in a blazing furnace.*)
 6. When the music played, what did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego NOT do? (*They did NOT bow down and worship the statue.*)
 7. How did the king respond when he found out that they refused to bow down? (*He was angry and ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter!*)
 8. What did the king order his soldiers to do? (*tie the three men up and throw them in the furnace*)
 9. What did the king see when he looked in the furnace? (*four men instead of three, and they weren’t tied up*)
 10. What did the king say to the men in the furnace? (*He commanded them to come out.*)
 11. What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do? (*They walked out of the furnace.*)
 12. What happened to them inside the fiery furnace? (*Nothing! Their robes weren’t burned. They didn’t even smell like smoke!*)

13. How did King Nebuchadnezzar respond when he saw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? (*He praised the one true God.*)
14. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not alone in the fiery furnace. Who was with them? (*God was with them.*)

What You Say:

“When faced with the choice to bow down to a statue or worship the one true God, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose to honor God. They knew the choice they made meant they would be thrown into the furnace. They had confidence that no matter what happened, God was with them. We can have that same confidence, too. God is always with us. So this week, when you’re faced with a choice to do the right thing, remember you are NOT alone. You can **[Bottom Line] trust that God is always with you.**”

4. Yes I Can!

What You Need: Ping Pong Balls and Solo Cups (10 per Group)

What You Do:

- Gather your group into 2 lines/teams.
- Set a Cup about 2 feet away from the 1st child in line for Each Team.
- Hand each child in the front of their line a ping pong ball.
- Ask them “Do you think you can make the ping pong ball into the Cup?”
 - Encourage them to be confident and answer “Yes I Can!”
- Allow each child to attempt to make the ping pong ball. If they miss they go to the back of the line and will get to try again.
- Increase difficulty by placing the cups further away after each made attempt for each team.
 - NOTE: Continue to encourage the kids that they should continue to be confident and believe they can do it.
 - Continue play as long as time and interest allows.

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather your group for prayer.
- Remind your group to find their shadows this week and remember that God is with them!
- Ask for any volunteers to pray aloud with confidence.
- If no one volunteers, close the group by praying aloud.

What You Say:

“Every time you see your shadow this week, I want you to remember to **[Bottom Line] trust that God is always with you.** You are never alone, even if you FEEL alone. Nothing can separate you from God, and He loves you more than you could ever imagine! Let’s pray and thank God for always being with us.

“Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and for the truth that You are always with us. When we feel less than confident this week, help us remember that we are never alone. Remind us in big and small ways that You are right there to help us. We trust You, God. And we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”