

Alley SG—November 20th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Safe and Sound (Daniel Is Thrown into a Den of Lions) • *Daniel 6*

Today's Key Question: What is the bravest thing you've ever done?

Today's Bottom Line: You can do what you should because God is with you

Monthly Memory Verse: *Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.* Joshua 1:9b (NIRV)

1. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, "Sentence Starters" Activity Page (1 per kid), dice (1 per pair of kids)

What You Do:

- Invite kids to look up Joshua 1:9b in their Bibles or on a Bible app.
- Ask a few kids to read the verse aloud from a variety of translations if desired.
- Instruct kids to pair up then give each team one die.
- Give each kid a copy of "Sentence Starters" Activity Page.
- Explain that one partner will roll the die and then find the Sentence Starter that corresponds with the number they rolled.
- The kid who rolled the die will read the Sentence Starter and their partner will finish the sentence.
- Switch roles and repeat a few times then let kids choose new partners and play again.
- Continue until kids have shared with several new partners and the verse has been discussed.
- For an added challenge, instruct partners to attempt to lip sync (speak in unison) as they read the Sentence Starter then continue by having one partner anticipate the words the other kid will say then attempt to say the same thing.
 - The best way to stay in sync is by speaking slowly and watching their partner's mouth as they guess what words will be said.
 - They can wait for their partner to start a word and then try to anticipate what that word is.
 - See if your group can do this without laughing!
- Bring the group back together.
- Choose one kid to lead the others as the whole group lip syncs Joshua 1:9b together.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, "Daniel in the Den of Lions" Activity Page (1 per kid), markers

What You Do:

- Set out markers then give each kid a copy of "Daniel in the Den of Lions" Activity Page.
- Invite them to respond to the prompts on the page and fill in the scenes from today's Bible story like a comic book.
- Encourage kids to look up the Bible story in Daniel 6:1-23 if they need help with any of the illustrations.
- Discuss the story as kids work or come together when finished to share their pictures and talk about the story.
 - Do you think Daniel did the right thing in disobeying the king's law? Why or why not?

- Tell the group about a situation you were in when it was hard to do the right thing.
- Why is it so scary to stand alone—even when you know you’re right and God is with you?
- God saved Daniel from the lions, but sometimes courageous people stand up for what’s right and suffer for it. What are some things we can do to build up our courage and be ready for the times when we will need to be courageous despite the possible consequences?
- Have you ever been the only one standing up for what was right? Were you able to feel like God was with you in that situation? (If kids don’t have their own story, ask them to share a story of someone they know or have heard or read about.)
- Remind kids that God is with us even when we’re the only one doing the right thing. God sees it all, knows what’s up, and will help us face our situation with faith and courage. We can trust God no matter what.

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Paper (2-3 sheets per kid), pens

What You Do:

- Hand out paper and pens.
- Ask kids to draw a Tic-Tac-Toe grid on their papers that is large enough to write a word inside each square.
- Pair kids up.
- Explain that you will name a category such as “animals in a zoo.”
- They will then write a word in each box of their Tic-Tac-Toe grid, without letting anyone know what they are writing.
- Emphasize that the goal is to choose words they think their partner will also write down.
- After a few minutes, invite partners to compare words and put an X in any box on the grid that contains a word that their partner also wrote down.
- Words don’t have to be written in the same box for both partners; as long as they both have the word somewhere on the grid, they both get to put an X in the appropriate box.
- The first partner to get three in a row earns 100 points. If partners have the same word in the same box, they each earn an extra 100 points.
- Repeat, using categories such as the ones below and letting kids keep a tally of their score.
- Provide additional sheets of paper as needed.
 - Words that rhyme with BRAVE.
 - Things we trust
 - Words that rhyme with FEAR
 - Things that roar
 - Someone or something from today’s story
- Provide extra sheets of paper as needed between rounds.
- Bring kids together.
- Play two more rounds as an entire group and invite kids to share their answers.
- Any words that are not shared by someone else earn extra points.
 - Things that scare you
 - Characteristics of God
- Declare a winner based on the highest score.

4. Discussion Questions

- What's the bravest thing you've ever done?
- Does having courage mean never being afraid? Why or why not?
- How can you be afraid but still have courage?
- Who are some of the people in your life who can help you build up your courage?
- What can we do when we totally lack courage?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Use the words of Joshua 1:9b to lead kids in a prayer for courage.
- Remind them that Joshua 1:9b encourages us to stand strong and do what we should because we know God is with us.
- Assign kids who are willing to pray aloud to lead the others in prayer as you read Joshua 1:9b and pause after each sentence.
- If you don't have any volunteers who are comfortable praying aloud, let kids pray silently after each part of the verse.
- Say:
 - Be strong and brave.
 - Do not be afraid.
 - Do not lose hope.
 - I am the LORD your God.
 - I will be with you everywhere you go.

What You Say:

"Dear God, help us to remember that we are NEVER alone. You are with us at all times and will never leave us on our own. Give us the kind of courage that Daniel had when he chose to follow You even when he wasn't sure what would happen. Help us to be strong and brave and to not lose hope when things get hard. You are a great and mighty God, and we believe in You. In Jesus' name, amen."