

October 6, 2019

Bible Story Focus: God is with me so I can be brave.

Daniel and the Lions • *Daniel 6:1-23*

Memory Verse: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid . . . for the LORD your God goes with you.” Deuteronomy 31:6, NIV

Key Question: Who can help you be brave?

Bottom Line: God can help me be brave.

Basic Truth: God loves me.

1. Super Kids to the Rescue!

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: Silk scarves

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children in the activity area. Pass out the scarves for the children to hold up as capes. Encourage the children to roleplay being a Super Kid to save the day!

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “These scarves look like superhero capes. Let’s hold them up and pretend we’re Super Kids! Are you ready to save the day?”

After the Activity: “Wow! I saw some very cool superhero moves. This month, we’re going to take a look at how we can be Super Kids with God’s help. Isn’t that exciting?”

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to act like Super Kids.

2. Feeding the Lions

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need: Round laundry basket; orange and yellow streamers; and beanbags

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Turn the basket on its side where the opening is to the side. Wrap the streamers around opening of the basket to hang down like a lion’s mane.

During the Activity: Have the children stand about eight feet in front of the basket. Give the children the beanbags and challenge them to toss them into the basket. Be sure every child gets a turn to toss the beanbags into the basket.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “ROAR! There is a lion in our room.” (*Point.*)

During the Activity: “Let’s feed our lion. (*Hold up beanbags.*) Let’s toss them into the lion’s mouth.” (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: “Great job! Our lion is fed and happy. Today in our Bible story, we will hear about lions. I cannot wait to hear our TRUE story from the Bible!”

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by chanting this month’s Bottom Line as you walk to the story area.

3. Memory Verse with Motions

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the Memory Verse and do the following motions in front of the children. *Be strong* (*put right forearm and wrist out in front of you, similar to Wonder Woman*) and *courageous!* (*Put left forearm and wrist out in front of you and hit wrists together.*) *Do not be afraid . . .* (*wind up in a crazy karate chop pose and chop down on the word “afraid”*), *for the LORD* (*point your right hand up*) *your God* (*point your left hand up*) *goes with you* (*put both hands on hips in a “strong” pose*), Deuteronomy 31:6. (*Hold out hands like a book.*)

During the Activity: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “I am going to say our new Memory Verse today. Everyone watch me! *Be strong* (*put right forearm and wrist out in front of you, similar to Wonder Woman*) and *courageous!* (*Put left forearm and wrist out in front of you and hit wrists together.*) *Do not be afraid . . .* (*wind up in a crazy karate chop pose and chop down on the word “afraid”*), *for the LORD* (*point your right hand up*) *your God* (*point your left hand up*) *goes*

with you (put both hands on hips in a “strong” pose), Deuteronomy 31:6.” (Hold out hands like a book.)

During the Activity: “Now let’s do it all together! Are you ready?” *(Say the verse and do the motions several times with the children.)*

After the Activity: “Our Memory Verse tells us that God can help us be brave. WOW! **Who can help you be brave? [Bottom Line] God can help me be brave!**”

4. Daniel and the Lions Puppet Play

Talk About God | Bible Story Review

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

What You Need: One blue plastic cup; seven yellow or orange plastic cups; “Daniel and the Lions Faces” Activity Page; cardstock; scissors; and glue sticks

(Optional: Blue construction paper and yellow or orange construction paper.)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Daniel and the Lions Faces” Activity Page onto cardstock and cut out each face. Glue the “Daniel” face to the blue cup. Glue the “Lion” faces to the seven yellow or orange cups.

(Optional: You may choose to draw two small arms onto blue construction paper and cut out to add to the Daniel puppet and draw two small paws onto orange or yellow construction paper to add to each lion puppet.)

During the Activity: Use the Daniel and lion puppets to retell today’s Bible story with the children.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “In our TRUE Bible story today, we learned about Daniel. *(Hold up the Daniel puppet.)* Daniel loved God. Even when the king signed a law that everyone had to pray to his statue, Daniel knew he needed to obey God. So he continued to pray to God. *(Make the Daniel puppet “bow” in prayer.)* The rule said that if you didn’t bow down to the statue, then you’d be thrown into a den of hungry lions. *(Bring out all the lion puppets.)* The king didn’t want to do it—he loved Daniel—but that was the law. So he had Daniel thrown into the lions’ den. *(Place the Daniel puppet into the center of the lion puppets.)* God protected Daniel and kept the lions’ mouths shut. The next day, when the king ran to the lions’ den and called for Daniel, Daniel answered back! The lions didn’t hurt Daniel. He was so brave!”

After the Activity: “What an incredible TRUE story of bravery! Daniel knew that God was with him, so he could be brave. Tell me: **Who can help you be brave? [Bottom Line] God can help me be brave.** And you can be brave like Daniel, too. Remember, God is with you and can help you be brave. That makes you a Super Kid! **Who can help you be brave?** Say it with me: **[Bottom Line] God can help me be brave.**”

5. Being Brave

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Large piece of butcher paper, wall tape, and marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Tape the paper on the wall vertically and at preschool level. Write “Being Brave” at the top of the paper.

During the Activity: Have the children sit in front of the paper. Ask the children ways that they can be brave. As a child answers, say, “WOW, Super [child’s name]! Great answer! You are all SUPER KIDS!” Then write the answer on the paper.

After the Activity: Continue until all of the children have given an answer and you have written all of them onto the paper.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We can be brave because God is with us! That makes us SUPER KIDS!”

During the Activity: “Let’s talk about things that we can do that are brave. I will go first. I can go to bed all by myself. That makes me brave. That makes me a SUPER KID! (Write ‘go to bed by myself’ onto the butcher paper.) Can you tell things that make you brave and you a SUPER KID?” (Pause and do activity.)

After the Activity: “You are all SUPER KIDS! God is with us and can make us brave! **Who can help you be brave? [Bottom Line] God can help me be brave!**”

6. Lion Craft

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: “Lion Label” Activity Page, Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent, white plastic or wooden spoons (one per child), orange construction paper, black permanent marker, red permanent marker, small googly eyes (two per child), scissors, and liquid glue

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the Activity Page onto the label paper and set aside. Cut the orange paper into five-inch circles. Each child will need a circle. Gently bend the circle in half without creasing it. Use the scissors to make a small cut at the bend toward the bottom of the circle. Be sure it is large enough for the handle of the spoon to slide through. Use the scissors to make a fringe on the outside of the circle like a lion’s mane.

During the Activity: Give each child a circle and a spoon. Help each child slide the handle of the spoon into the small cut inside the circle. You will have a lion’s mane with the spoon as the lion’s face. Help the child glue two googly eyes onto the top of the spoon and to use the markers to make a nose, mouth, and freckles.

After the Activity: Give each child a label, and help them place it on the back of the lion.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We heard an amazing Bible story today. God was with Daniel and made him brave. He was a SUPER KID with the lions!”

During the Activity: “We are going to make a lion that you may take home and tell your family all about our Bible story today.” (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: “Nice job! Your lions look amazing! You can take them home tell your families about how God was with Daniel and he was SO brave. God can make us brave, too. We are all SUPER KIDS! **Who can help you be brave? [Bottom Line] God can help me be brave!**”

7. Monthly Worship Song from Hip Hip Hooray DVD – Song “Cool”

8. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

What You Need: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Deuteronomy 31:6, NIV. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time. Today we are going to pretend to be lions while we walk to our Small Group spot. Come on and prowl with me!

(Encourage the children to pretend to be lions as you lead them to your Small Group spot.)

“Ooo, you make great lions! But if you were really a lion, I would RUN!

“Let’s sit down now and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!

(Open the Bible and lay it open in front of the children.)

“Our Bible story today had some lions in it. Who remembers why there were lions in the story? *(Pause.)*

“You are so right! The king passed a law that said if you prayed to anyone but the king, you would be thrown into a pit with lions in it! That’s scary! But Daniel was brave. He knew that God was always with him, so he prayed to God like he had always done.

“Who helped Daniel be brave? *(Pause.)* Yes, God helped Daniel be brave. **Who can help you be brave?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: [Bottom Line] “God can help me be brave!”

SGL: “He sure can! Knowing that God is always with us can help us be brave. And I have a great verse that will help us remember that God is always with us. It says this.

(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)

“*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid . . . for the LORD your God goes with you,* Deuteronomy 31:6 *(NIV).*

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

“Let’s stand up and say our new Bible verse with the motions. Are you ready? Just say what I say and do what I do.”

CHILDREN and SGL: *“Be strong (put right forearm and wrist out in front of you, similar to Wonder Woman) and courageous! (Put left forearm and wrist out in front of you and hit wrists together.) Do not be afraid . . . (wind up in a crazy karate chop pose and chop down on the word “afraid”), for the LORD (point your right hand up) your God (point your left hand up) goes with you (put both hands on hips in a “strong” pose), Deuteronomy 31:6.” (Hold out hands like a book.) (Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)*

SGL: *“Wow! (Clap for the children.) I am so proud of you! Let’s sit down now so we can write in our journal and pray.*

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“Today we are going to make a list of things that we are afraid of, like lions or the dark or strangers or the dentist. It can be anything! Then, when we pray, we will ask God to help us remember that He is always with us so we can be brave Super Kids!

“When I say your name, tell me one thing you are afraid of and I will write it in our prayer journal.

(Say each child’s name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

“This is a great list! Everyone is afraid of something every now and then. Now we can use our list when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

Prayer

SGL: *“Dear God, thank You for Daniel’s story. He was so brave because he knew You were with him. Please help us remember You are always with us so we can be brave too! Help [child’s name] remember you are with him/her when (read what they listed). (Repeat for each child.) You are the best, God, and we love You very much. In Jesus’ name, amen.”*