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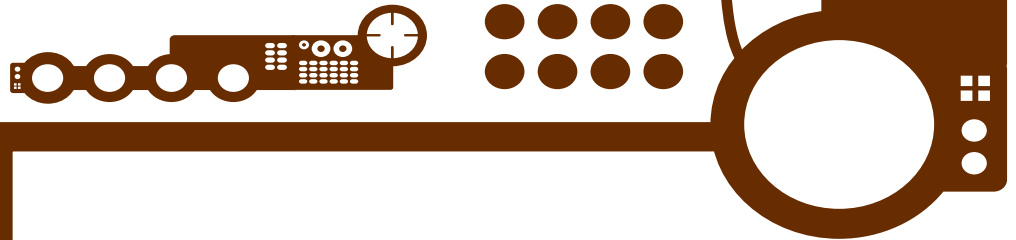
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252 BASICS®

Group and Family Experiences for K-5th Grades



1. I need to make the wise choice.
2. I can trust God no matter what.
3. I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Statement of Faith

ABOUT GOD

God is the one and only true God, yet He exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is the Creator, so everything belongs to Him and is under His control. God is holy, so He is righteous, majestic, and loving. God is all knowing and purposeful, so He's at work to bring about His will. No person, thing, or idea compares to God.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

God reveals Himself to us through the Bible, and it is 100% accurate, reliable, and authoritative.

ABOUT PEOPLE

People are made in God's image and for His pleasure. But everybody falls short of God's intention,

or ideal, for people. In other words, everyone has sinned. As a result, we are all separated from Him, even though He wants an intimate relationship with each of us.

ABOUT SALVATION

That's why Jesus—God's Son—came and lived on this earth, died, and rose again. God offers His free gift of salvation to all who believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior—the only way to be forgiven and reconciled to God. Anyone who accepts this gift is adopted as a son or daughter into God's family and will live with Him forever in heaven.

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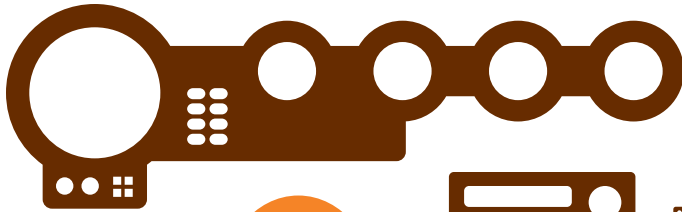
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252 BASICS®

Virtue: **COURAGE**

Being brave enough to do what you should do even when you're afraid.



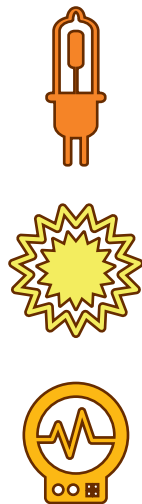
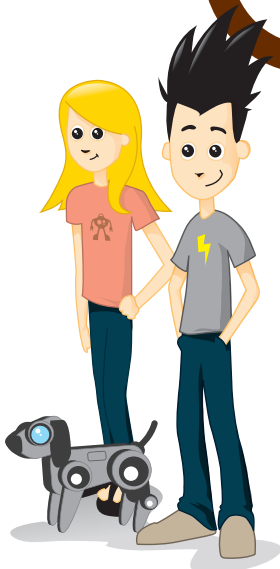
MAR
27, 2011

The Lion Sleeps Tonight

Memory Verse: "When I am afraid, I will trust in you." Psalm 56:3, NIV

Bible Story: The Lion Sleeps Tonight (Daniel in the den of lions) • Daniel 6:1-23

Bottom Line: Remember God is with you when you are the only one doing the right thing.



POWER UP Large group 20-25 minutes

- Engage the Heart
- for 4th-5th grade

Virtue:

COURAGE

Being brave enough to do what you should do even when you're afraid.

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Psalm 56:3, NIV



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes

Bible Story:

THE LION SLEEPS TONIGHT

Daniel 6:1-23

PREVIEW

Power Up is designed to engage children in worship in a large group setting. Music, prayer, and an innovative approach to the Bible story are always a part of this interactive time.

Especially for 4th–5th Grade

FOR LEADERS ONLY

Courage is all about (1) being brave enough to do what you should do even when you're afraid. Sometimes it involves doing the right thing when no one else is. A prime example: Daniel. He continued to pray to the one true God even though it'd been prohibited for 30 days by the king's order. But thankfully, (2) God is big. He was bigger than any problem Daniel faced, and while He didn't remove the problem, He saw Daniel through it unscathed. (3) Kids need to know that God is bigger than any problem they'll ever face, too. No matter what the problem is, God can help them face it and do the courageous thing in response to it. (4) Then others can get a glimpse of the great big God who helps us meet any and all challenges courageously.

GET READY

Gather all the supplies needed for large group:

- *People:* You will need a Host, a Storyteller, and a Worship Team. You will also need four kid volunteers for Get Started and the Bible story.
- *Bibles:* You will need a Bible for the story presentation and worship (preferably the NIV).
- *Large Group Visuals (from the Web site):* You will need "R U Chicken? Slide," "Virtue Slide," and today's "Bottom Line Slide," which you prepared at the beginning of the month.
- *Props and Costumes:* You'll need a real cat; a large litter box; kitty litter; Tootsie Rolls®; four colorful luggage tags marked "D," "L," "K," and "ED"; an extra luggage tag for the Host; and a large black cloth to cover up the litter box. Prepare the litter box by filling it with kitty



Recycle • Make It Stick
What do you want to make sure they never forget?



Impress • Make It Big
What is the one thing you want them to understand?



Personalize • Make It Real
What can you model for them from your own life?



Apply • Make It Fit
What do you want them to walk away and do?



Transition • Make It Flow
What will you say or do to keep them engaged?



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes • for 4th–5th grade

- litter. Then hide the four marked luggage tags in the kitty litter. Finally, moisten and shape the Tootsie Rolls® to look like they belong in the litter box. Set the prepared litter box onstage and cover it with the black cloth. For the Bible story, you'll need a prayer shawl (a piece of fabric folded and draped over someone's head), a tutu, a crown, and a black knit cap or balaclava. The Host will need a Frisbee® for Wrap Up.
- **Music and Sound Effects (SFX):** You will need high-energy music as the kids enter and exit the room (like the downloadable MP3 virtue song from the Web site). For worship, you will need *The Way I Was Made* CD. You'll also need a buzzer and intense, suspenseful game show music (like the theme song from *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, available from iTunes®). Finally, prepare an audio snippet from The Tokens' song "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" (available on iTunes®). The snippet should include the first eight seconds of the song, the a cappella "Ee ee ... wah ma way."

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids enter.

Host should be onstage stroking the cat and greeting kids as they come in.

1. R U Chicken?

HOST: "Good morning, guys! Say hello to my cat, Fluffy. I thought I'd bring her in because she's playing a ... *(clear your throat)* ... substantial part in our game today. What game is that, you ask? Why, it's the same high-stakes game of courage we've been playing all month long. We call it ...

SFX: Reverb on Host mic

CG: R U Chicken? Slide

HOST: "R U Chicken?"

SFX: Cut reverb on Host mic

HOST: "That's right. And today is our grand finale. *(In baby talk)* Oooh, Fluffy Wuffy, you're the best cat! *(Host obnoxiously snuggles with the cat.)* Today's



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episode of 'R U Chicken?' is more fun than catnip in a grocery bag. I call it ... Tidy Cat!

Host takes the cloth off the litter box with a flourish.

HOST: *(Tipping the litter box forward so the kids can see)* "See? Isn't this great? Fluffy was so nice to help us out with our competition today. *(Picking up some Tootsie Rolls®)* What? You guys think this is gross? It's no big deal!

"Well, today we're going to find out who in this room is truly courageous. I need four volunteers to play Tidy Cat!

Host picks four kids with their hands raised and brings them onstage.

HOST: "Thanks for volunteering. I think Fluffy likes you. Don't you, Fluffy? *(Host continues snuggling with the cat.)* When I say 'Go,' I need all four of you to dig through this litter box like crazy. There are four luggage tags buried in here. They look like this *(holding up the extra luggage tag)*. Your job is to find one for each of you. Just try to avoid the land mines, if you know what I mean. Good luck with that!

"All right, it's time to get digging. On your mark, get set, go!"

SFX: Suspense-building game show music

SFX: Buzzer (when all four luggage tags have been found)

HOST: "Awesome! You did it! Way to go, guys! You can hang tight here on the stage. Thank you all for playing ...

SFX: Reverb on Host mic

CG: R U Chicken? Slide

HOST: "R U Chicken?"

SFX: Cut reverb on Host mic



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

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HOST: “Fluffy and I are going backstage to eat some sardines. You want some fishies, don’t you, Fluffy?”

Host snuggles with the cat obnoxiously as he exits.

Storyteller enters. Also, one of the Worship Leaders comes on stage to take away the litter box.

2. Present the Bible Lesson

Storyteller: Note that the following Bible lesson script has been organized into three main points (noted in brown) to help you present it in a memorable way. The lesson concludes with a “closer” to help make real-life application for kids.

STORYTELLER: “Wow! That was pretty disgusting. *(To the four contestants)* I’m glad you guys got the tags, though. I’ll explain that part in a minute. First, I have to ask you—why in the world did you volunteer for that? I mean, you saw what you were getting into.”

Storyteller gets a couple responses from the four contestants. There’s no need to have a microphone or tall chairs for this one. Just repeat their answers so the audience can hear.

STORYTELLER: “Interesting. I don’t think I’ve ever been courageous enough to stick my hand in a litter box. But I DO have a pretty awesome, off-the-hook, true story of courage to tell you guys today. *(To the four volunteers)* I need your help, though. Let me start by telling you what the tags mean. You guys go ahead and stand in a row here so you’re facing the crowd. ‘D,’ you’re going to be playing the part of Daniel. *(Put the prayer shawl over the kid’s head.)* ‘L,’ you’ll be a vicious, man-eating lion. *(Put the tutu around the kid’s head, like a mane.)* ‘K,’ you’re going to be King Darius [duh RIGH uhs]. *(Put the crown on the kid’s head.)* Finally, we have ‘ED’ for Evil Dude. *(Put the black knit cap or balaclava on the kid’s head.)*

“But there’s a catch! When you hear this song ... ”

SFX: “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” snippet



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

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STORYTELLER: “I need you to pull a little costume switch. Whenever you hear this song ... ”

SFX: “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” snippet

STORYTELLER: “Pass your costume to the person on your left. When you do, each of you will be playing a new character. Make sense? Evil Dude, you can run to the other side and pass your stuff to Daniel, and so on.

“Now, I need you guys to really show us your best acting talents. I’m looking for emotion—big facial expressions, tears, laughter—whatever your person is feeling at the time. Think you can do it? Audience, let’s cheer ‘em on!

“This story is about a guy who was courageous even when he was the only one doing the right thing. Here is the story of Daniel!”

TECHNICAL NOTE: The costume switch should happen four times between now and the “Close the Story” section. That way each kid has a chance to play each character. It’s up to you when to play the audio cue, but make sure it’s at a good stopping point each time, like right after one of the kids acts out a part.

TARGET: DANIEL

STORYTELLER: “Daniel was a leader in the kingdom of King Darius. He was one of three people who ruled over 120 other rulers! *(To Daniel)* Okay, Daniel, hold your head up high. Show me you’re a leader!”

Daniel holds his head up high.

STORYTELLER: “Daniel had an important job, and he was very good at it. He was a great guy and a hard worker. In fact, he did such an awesome job that King Darius wanted to promote him and put him in charge of the whole kingdom! *(To King Darius)* King Darius, you’re very impressed with Daniel.”

King Darius looks impressed with Daniel.



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

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STORYTELLER: “Well, some of the other leaders and rulers weren’t too stoked about this. They were jealous. They didn’t want Daniel to get promoted, even though he deserved it. *(To Evil Dude)* Evil Dude, show me some jealousy!”

Evil Dude looks jealous.

STORYTELLER: “So these evil dudes tried to find a way to bring charges against Daniel and take him down. But here’s the thing—and this is pretty interesting for you and me to think about: they couldn’t find anything wrong with Daniel! Listen to what the Bible says. *(Open the Bible to Daniel 6:4e-h, NIV, and read.)* ‘They couldn’t find any fault with his work. He could always be trusted. He never did anything wrong. And he always did what he was supposed to.’ *(To Daniel and Evil Dude)* Daniel, keep lookin’ good. Evil Dude, you are SHOCKED!”

Daniel looks good, and Evil Dude looks shocked.

STORYTELLER: “The evil dudes decided that the only way they could get Daniel would be something to do with his faith in God. They knew Daniel lived God’s way, so they figured they could set a trap for him. They figured they could get the king to make some ridiculous law that Daniel wouldn’t be able to follow. And that’s exactly what they did. *(To Evil Dude)* Evil Dude, you are sneaky!”

Evil Dude looks sneaky.

STORYTELLER: “So the evil dudes convinced the king to issue a decree that said that anyone who prayed to someone other than the king during the next 30 days would be thrown into a den of LIONS. *(To lion)* Vicious, man-eating lion, you are HUNGRY!”

Lion looks hungry and maybe even rubs his belly.

STORYTELLER: “Now, this was kind of a dumb law, but I guess the king was used to people telling him he was great and mighty, so he fell for it. King Darius made the decree and basked in his awesomeness.”

King Darius looks proud.



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PRAYED ANYWAY

STORYTELLER: “But Daniel didn’t fall for these shenanigans. Daniel was courageous! He heard about the king’s wonky law, but it didn’t change anything for him. He was still going to pray to God, just like he always did. He went to his upstairs room, got down on his knees, and gave thanks to God. *(To Daniel)* Let’s see it, Daniel. Climb those stairs. You’re in the upstairs room. Now get down on your knees and pray.”

Daniel pretends to climb stairs, kneels, and prays.

STORYTELLER: “Wouldn’t you know, the evil dudes saw Daniel praying. ‘Aha!’ they said. ‘We’ve got him now!’”

Evil Dude looks excited.

STORYTELLER: “They went to the king to tattle on Daniel. *(Open the Bible to Daniel 6:13c-e, NIV, and read in your smarmiest voice.)* ‘He doesn’t pay any attention to you, King Darius. He doesn’t obey the order you put in writing. He still prays to his God three times a day.’

“King Darius was actually very upset about this. He felt terrible! *(To King Darius)* Go ahead, king.”

King Darius looks upset.

STORYTELLER: “Remember, King Darius thought Daniel was super-cool. Daniel was one of his best leaders, and an awesome guy, too. The king didn’t want to lose him! But that’s exactly what the law said had to happen. And once the law was written, even the king had to follow it. The evil dudes were happy to remind him of this. They were soooo pleased with themselves.”

Evil Dude looks pleased with himself.

THE LIONS’ DEN

STORYTELLER: “The king had no choice. He had Daniel taken to the lions’ den. ‘You always serve your God faithfully,’ he told Daniel. ‘I hope He will save you!’ *(To King Darius)* King, you’re really worried about your boy Daniel!”

King Darius looks worried.



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STORYTELLER: "Lion, you are SOOOO hungry!"

Lion looks hungry and maybe even rubs his belly.

STORYTELLER: "How about a roar?"

Lion roars.

STORYTELLER: "And so the king's men sealed up the den with a big stone. Daniel was in a dark, creepy pit at NIGHT with no way to escape. He was just hangin' with a pack of hungry lions. I don't even want to imagine how scary that must have been!

"King Darius didn't eat. He couldn't sleep. He tossed and turned all night. He worried about his friend Daniel and the horrible things that might be happening to him. *(To King Darius)* King, toss and turn for me."

King Darius tosses and turns.

STORYTELLER: "As soon as the sun rose in the morning, the king was down at the den. He had to see what had happened to Daniel! *(Open the Bible to Daniel 6:20c-22, NIV, and read.)* King Darius called out: "Daniel! You serve the living God. You always serve him faithfully. So has he been able to save you from the lions?" Daniel answered, "My king, may you live forever! My God sent his angel. And his angel shut the mouths of the lions. They haven't hurt me at all. That's because I haven't done anything wrong in God's sight. I've never done anything wrong to you either, my king."

"So it sounds like the lions had their lips pretty much zipped."

Lion zips his lips. (Storyteller can go 'zip' them for him if he doesn't get the cue.)

STORYTELLER: "Daniel was safe! The king's servants lifted him out of the den, and he didn't have any wounds or bite marks at all. *(To Daniel)* Why don't you check, just to make sure?"

Daniel checks for bite marks.



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

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STORYTELLER: *(To volunteers)* “You guys did an awesome job! Thanks for your help. You can head back to your seats.”

Volunteers shed costumes and head back to their seats.

CLOSE THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Okay, now check this out. Here’s what all of us need to see in this true story. Daniel trusted God, and God protected him! He had the courage to do the right thing. Daniel kept praying to God like he always did. He knew that God would be with him, no matter what happened. And when the worst possible thing happened, God DID protect him. God did bring him out safely from the lions’ den. **! Remember God is with you when you are the only one doing the right thing.**

“You and I? We’re in situations like this all the time. Maybe we don’t have to face a lions’ den, but we do have to deal with people who want to bring us down or want us to do the wrong thing. We can hide in fear, or we can be courageous like Daniel. He didn’t let peer pressure get him down. He stood tall and kept living a life that honored God.

“There’s something else that’s really important here. It sure didn’t look good for Daniel when they put that stone over the lions’ den. He was trusting God, but it sure looked like the end, didn’t it? Well, you might feel the same way sometimes. Even when you do the right thing, everything may not work out the way you think it should. But remember that God is BIGGER! Daniel knew that. He knew that it was all about God, and his job was simple. He just had to  **trust God no matter what.**

! “Remember God is with you when you are the only one doing the right thing. You guys say that with me.”

CG: Bottom Line

KIDS and STORYTELLER: ! “Remember God is with you when you are the only one doing the right thing.”

STORYTELLER: “Sometimes you might feel like you’re the only one standing up for what’s right. You might feel uncool or uncomfortable, but that’s when



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes • for 4th–5th grade

God has called you to be courageous. That's when you need to be the one to stand up for what's right.

"There's something else Daniel did, too. He prayed! We need to make prayer a habit and ask God to help us with that.

"Remember, even when you're the only one, you're not alone. God is ALWAYS with you. He was with Daniel, He's with me, and He's with you.

! Remember God is with you when you are the only one doing the right thing. Let's pray."

3. Pray

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for always being with us, even when we feel like we're the only one doing the right thing. It's hard when we're around people who want us to do the wrong thing or who make fun of us for living Your way. Please give us Your courage so we can stand strong in those situations. We need Your help! Thank You so much for loving us and giving us the courage we need to do what we should do, even when we're afraid. In Jesus' name, amen."

Storyteller exits as Worship Team enters.

4. Lead Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: "God is always with us—in the great times and in the tough times. He never changes! He's the one who gives us courage for whatever we might face in life. Let's sing this out and celebrate how amazing He is!"

"Blessed Be Your Name" / track 2 / from The Way I Was Made

WORSHIP LEADER: "God is our Rock! We can stand strong because He's with us. (*Open the Bible to Deuteronomy 32:3-4, NIV, and read.*) 'I will make known the name of the Lord. Praise God! How great he is! He is the Rock. His works are perfect. All of his ways are right.' We can depend on Him, trust in Him, and rely on Him. Sing it with us!"

"My Rock" / track 3 / from The Way I Was Made




POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes • for 4th–5th grade

Worship Leaders exit and Host enters carrying the cat and a Frisbee®.

5. Wrap Up

HOST: “That was awesome! Fluffy was really rockin’ out backstage. You guys should have seen it.

“I loved hearing about Daniel and the big-time courage he had even though he probably felt like the only one doing the right thing. That’s definitely the kind of  **wise choice** I want to make. It’s huge to be able to read these stories from the Bible, because you know what? Daniel was a real guy. And we can see right here (*hold up Bible*) where he got his courage. He trusted God. That’s seriously cool!

“Fluffy and I are going to the park a little later to throw the Frisbee®. Then I guess I need to clean her litter box. Right, Fluffy? (*Host snuggles with the cat obnoxiously.*) You guys have a great time in small group!”

Dismiss children to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.