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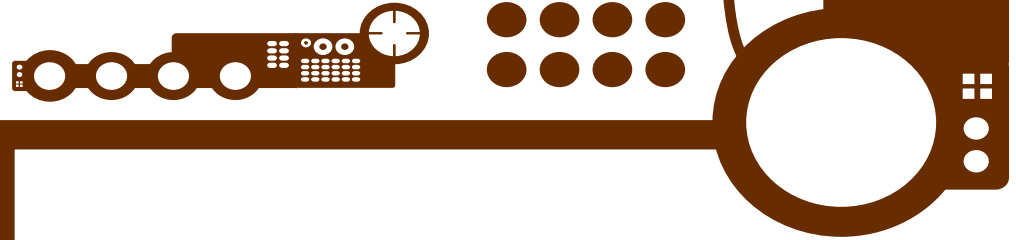
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252 BASICS®

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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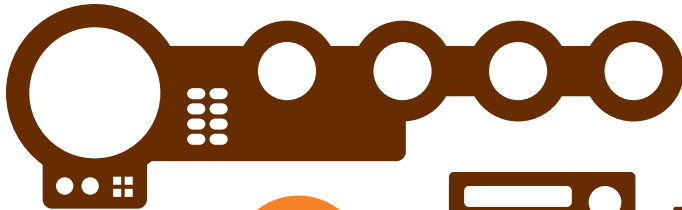
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252 BASICS®

Virtue: **COURAGE**

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



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.

PLUG IN Small groups

- 10-15 minutes
- Focus the Energy
- for kindergarten-1st grade

CATCH ON Small groups

- 25-30 minutes
- Make the Connection
- for kindergarten-1st grade



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PLUG IN: Focus the Energy

Small Groups, 10-15 minutes

Bible Story:

THE LION SLEEPS TONIGHT

Daniel 6:1-23

PREVIEW

Plug In is designed to introduce children to the day's topic in a setting that gives them individualized attention from their Small Group Leader and plenty of interaction with a small group of peers.

Divide the children by age into groups of no more than 10. You will need one Small Group Leader for each small group. Ideally, assign the same Small Group Leader to the same group of kids for the entire year.

Kindergarten–1st 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

For each small group, do the following:

- **Early Arriver Idea:** Provide an interesting offering container.
- **Creepy Crawlies:** Provide modeling dough.
- Gather the leaders together to pray before the kids arrive. Pray that each child would listen and learn the Bible truths presented during today's session. If any kids arrive before or during the prayer, invite them to participate with the leaders.



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?



PLUG IN: Focus the Energy

Small Groups, 10-15 minutes • for kindergarten–1st grade



Early Arriver Idea

Ask kids to talk about Bible stories where someone had to have courage. Invite the kids to put their offerings in the offering container.

SUPPLIES:

an interesting offering container


Creepy Crawlies

Instruct kids to use the dough to make something that scares them (such as bugs, snakes, etc).

SUPPLIES:

modeling dough

WRAP UP

SMALL GROUP LEADER: "Yikes! Those are some scary things!  We're going to hear about something else that's scary in large group today. Let's go!"

Lead your group to the large group area.



Virtue:

COURAGE

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

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



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



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes

Bible Story:

THE LION SLEEPS TONIGHT

Daniel 6:1-23

PREVIEW

Catch On is designed to help kids understand how the day's topic applies to them. They'll discuss real-life experiences, interact with a close-knit group of peers, and participate in a variety of activities that appeal to different learning styles. Life-application and memory-verse activities, as well as prayer, are always a part of this hands-on time.

Gather children into the same small groups as for Plug In. Make sure the same Small Group Leader works with the children.

Kindergarten–1st Grade

GET READY

For each small group, do the following:

- **The Only One:** No preparation or supplies needed.
- **Right Thing, Right Place:** Print the "Drawing Page" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site), one copy for yourself and each kid. Provide crayons.
- **Verse Fun:** Copy "Memory Verse Words" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site). Provide Bibles and a roll of tape that can be used on your walls.
- **Solo Prayers:** No preparation or supplies needed.
- Make copies on cardstock of this week's GodTime and Fridge Door cards.

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2. Activity #1 is particularly good for children who need to move in order to stay engaged (not just for boys).*



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



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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?



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for kindergarten–1st grade

SUPPLIES:

none

1. The Only One (*application activity / great for boys / review the Bible lesson*)

Help kids review the Bible story by asking the following questions:

- Who had to have courage in today's Bible story? (*Daniel*)
- Why did he have to have courage? (*He had to go against the king. He had to face a den full of lions.*)
- Why do you think Daniel did the right thing? (*He trusted God. He knew God would be with Him. He wanted to obey God.*)
- Why is it hard to do the right thing when you're the only one doing it? (*You don't want to be alone. You don't want to be left out. You don't want people to make fun of you.*)

Tell kids they're going to get a chance to see what it might have been like for Daniel, being the only one doing the right thing. Choose one kid to be Daniel and kneel with his eyes closed in the middle of your space. Then give the other kids 30–45 seconds to do whatever they want—talk, sing, play a game, walk around, etc., while the one kid has to stay still in a prayerful position. Give each kid a chance to be Daniel.

SMALL GROUP LEADER: "What was it like to be the only one kneeling and staying quiet? (*Pause for answers.*) 🦶 **It's sometimes hard to do the right thing when you're the only one doing it, like Daniel was. But God wants you to do the right thing, even when you're the only one. ! Remember God is with you when you are the only one doing the right thing."**

SUPPLIES:

"Drawing Pages" (Activity Page), crayons

2. Right Thing, Right Place (*application activity*)

Tell kids that we need courage almost everywhere we go. Ask kids to list some of the places they go. Then give kids a "Drawing Page." Instruct them each to choose three of those places and draw a picture of themselves doing something that would be the "right thing" at that place. For example, they might draw themselves at home doing their homework while their siblings play a video game, their schoolbooks discarded to the side. Or they might draw themselves hanging out with a kid on crutches on the playground while everyone else plays soccer. While they draw, encourage them to talk to each other about what they're drawing. ❤️ **Do this activity yourself, and tell kids about what you draw.**



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for kindergarten–1st grade

SUPPLIES:

"Memory Verse Words"
(Activity Page), Bibles, tape

SUPPLIES:

none

SMALL GROUP LEADER: "It's not always easy to do the right thing, especially when you're the only one doing it. 🦶 **Courage helps us do the right thing even when no one else is. We get that courage from trusting God. ! Remember God is with you when you are the only one doing the right thing."**

3. Verse Fun (*memory verse activity*)

Help kids look up Psalm 56:3 (use tips from week 1). Then scatter the "Memory Verse Words" upside down on the floor at one end of your space. Instruct kids to relay down and each grab a card. Help them tape the words on the wall in order. Say the verse together a few times.

SMALL GROUP LEADER: 🦶 "Whenever you're afraid to do the right thing, trust in God. He'll be there to give you courage. ! Remember God is with you when you are the only one doing the right thing."

4. Solo Prayers (*pray*)

Remind kids that Daniel was alone when he prayed, and they can pray when they're alone, too. They'll practice right now by each saying their own prayer. Give them a few seconds to think about what they might pray, and give some ideas. Tell them they might ask God to help them have courage. They might thank God for being with them when they're scared. Then ask all kids to close their eyes and bow their heads. Say each child's name when it's his turn to pray. If any kids get stuck, prompt them with an idea of what they might say.

SMALL GROUP LEADER: "Dear God, thank You so much for being with us when we're the only ones doing the right thing. That makes it so much easier to be courageous! In Jesus' name, amen.

🦶 "When it seems like you're the only one doing the right thing, ask God to help you. ! Remember God is with you when you are the only one doing the right thing."



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for kindergarten–1st grade

WRAP UP

Bring together all the groups in your classroom so the Classroom Facilitator can conclude the session with a review. Be prepared to distribute this week's GodTime and Fridge Door cards.

CLASSROOM FACILITATOR: "All month we've been learning about how God is with us and will help us be courageous. We've seen how He helped lots of people to be courageous and do what needed to be done even when it was scary. He'll do the same for us. Let's always remember to ask God to help us be courageous no matter what happens."

Give each child a GodTime card. Distribute Fridge Door cards to parents as they arrive.