



Large-Group Leader Guide



group.com/sunday-school

Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's



Relational

Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.

We know you care about kids...

We do, too!

That's why we attempt to ensure that all crafts, toys, and gizmos meet or exceed national safety standards—and are produced by manufacturers that don't use child labor or abuse their labor force. You can order Group resources knowing that in addition to caring for *your* kids, you're also caring for children elsewhere.

Let's keep kids safe!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals—including lead.

You can help your children stay safe by seeing that toys and gizmos are used as designed, for the purposes designed, and that any broken pieces are disposed of promptly and properly. We value your feedback. If you become aware of a problem affecting the safety of any of our products, please inform us immediately.



Heroes Large-Group Leader Guide

Fall 2012

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Table of Contents

Welcome!	Page 4
Lesson 1	
Moses and the Red Sea	
<i>Exodus 13:17–15:21</i>	Page 5
Skit	
<i>Balloon Bop</i>	Page 12
Lesson 2	
David Defeats Goliath	
<i>1 Samuel 17:1-50</i>	Page 15
Skit	
<i>Be Strong!</i>	Page 22
Lesson 3	
Elijah Challenges the Prophets of Baal	
<i>1 Kings 18:16-39</i>	Page 25
Lesson 4	
Daniel Survives the Lions' Den	
<i>Daniel 6:1-23</i>	Page 33
Skit	
<i>Daring Daniel</i>	Page 41



Group's Living Inside Out®

The “Can-Do” Large-Group/Small-Group Kit for Children's Ministry

Welcome to Living Inside Out—the curriculum that dares kids to live out their faith 24/7.

You're the Large-Group Leader. You're the one God has gifted with an entertaining demeanor and dry palms in front of a crowd. And with your God-given talents, you're about to help create an unforgettable, God-soaked experience for your kids.

As the Large-Group Leader, you'll:


1

Experience Large-Group Wow (and Small-Group Pow). The large-group/small-group format works, especially when you have a diverse age-range in one room. Large group, through music, dramas, and experiences, offers a nonthreatening and low-impact way to get kids talking to other kids about stuff they love and about God. Kids feel the excitement of praise and worship with their friends and have fun interacting through object lessons and experiences. Small group digs deeper, firmly planting the Bible in the soil of children's hearts while kids build close relationships with peers. Both large- and small-group times get kids excited about what God is saying through Scripture, using thought-provoking questions to help them express what's happening in their hearts.

2

Reinforce the Bible Point. The large-group experience is multi-age, high impact, and interactive—and the Bible comes to life right before kids' eyes. In large group, kids learn a Bible story along with one important Bible Point underlying that story. The activities, games, dramas, and experiences reinforce both the story and the Point, and remind kids how they can let God work inside them as they live out their lives every day in the real world.

3

Choose Your Activities. Each lesson's activities are listed in the planning chart of your leader guide, allowing you to choose both your activities and the order you do them in. First, though, notice the Bible icon  in the chart. This is a *must-do* activity—it's where kids experience the Bible story. The other activities, all reinforcing the Bible story and Point, can be done in any order. Do as few or as many as time will allow.

4

Be REAL. Group's REAL learning philosophy is Relational (kids connect with one another), Experiential (kids make discoveries), Applicable (the Bible connects to kids' lives), and Learner-Based (kids experience the Bible in ways they learn best). With Group's REAL learning, kids connect to Jesus—and you get to experience that connection right along with them.

Living Inside Out gets kids to dive headfirst into a cool, relevant, loving relationship with God—and we're asking you to do the same. Above all? *Have fun showing these kids Jesus.* It's what you were born to do.



Moses and the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–15:21

Large-Group
Lesson
1

◀ The Point ▶

True heroes give God the credit.



Key Verse

*"Be strong and courageous!"
—Joshua 1:9*

CHOOSE YOUR OPTIONS

Each option below is designed to last 10 minutes. The option used to tell the Bible story is designated with the Bible image. Always do this option first in your large-group time. Use the chart below to plan the rest of your large-group time in whatever order fits your needs. Check the options you want to use.

Large Group

YOU'LL NEED

Bible • TV or video projection unit (VPU) • DVD player • CD player

Choose Your Options	Get Your Supplies	Planning Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Connect With Groups	• Large-Group DVD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Praise & Worship Sing It Out	• Large-Group DVD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skit Balloon Pop 	• Large-Group DVD • 1 red, green, or yellow balloon per child • curling ribbon (optional)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Object Lesson: The Art of Giving Credit	• Large-Group DVD • dry-erase board or easel with paper • marker	
<input type="checkbox"/> Experiment: Waves of Praise	• Large-Group DVD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Game: Freak-Out-O-Meter	• Large-Group DVD	

Teach the Key Verse anytime during large group.

Small Group

WHAT GROUPS WILL NEED

Bibles • Bible Memory Makers® • "Living Inside Out Every Day!" handouts

Preschool Supplies	Lower Elementary Supplies	Upper Elementary Supplies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • brown construction paper • blue paper • tape • scissors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • white paper • white crayons • red tempera paint • paintbrushes • 1 pie pan or shallow dish for every 3 or 4 kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • markers (colored and glitter) • colored index cards • gel pens



Moses and the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–15:21



Bible Foundation

A STRATEGIC DETOUR

Though finally released from slavery, the two million Israelites led by Moses were not carefree travelers as they began their journey to the Promised Land. The most direct route to Canaan was pitted with danger, and God knew it would shake the Israelites' faith if they confronted the warlike Philistines right at the onset. God detoured the Israelites, turning them back toward Egypt so Pharaoh would assume they were wandering aimlessly and would follow in pursuit. It was a perfect plan to lure Pharaoh's army just where God wanted them to go.

LIGHTING THE WAY

God sent a pillar of cloud to guide the Hebrews by day and a pillar of fire to guide them by night along their journey. Though the pillars may have frightened the people at first, they must've been an awesome spectacle! They became symbols of God's presence that must've been extremely reassuring to the newly freed slaves traveling in unknown territory.

A DESPERATE SITUATION

Remember, the Israelites were slaves of the Egyptians only days prior to this event. They'd been whipped by slave drivers during captivity, and they were familiar with the superior weapons Egyptians carried. They must've realized that their fighting skills were nothing compared to those of Pharaoh's army and they couldn't compete with horse-drawn chariots. Not only that, they were backed against the sea, with mountains on two sides, as the Egyptians bore down on them. The Israelites blamed Moses for their hopeless dilemma.

A RED SEA MIRACLE

Historians offer various theories about the exact location where Moses raised his staff over the Red Sea and God parted the waters. While we don't know details, the Bible tells us that God somehow moved the seawater away so the Israelites could cross and then collapsed the wall of water upon the pursuing Egyptian army. However this miraculous feat was accomplished, it was yet another example of God responding to the needs of his people.

LIVING INSIDE OUT

Though God protected the Israelites countless times during their exodus, they still struggled with faith. It literally took the dividing of a sea for Israelites to believe that God would remain true to his word. Sound familiar? Sometimes we put Jesus through the same kind of test, but having a relationship with him actually gives us the luxury of surrender. Jesus wants to carry our burdens, and he's far more capable than we are. We can live out our faith by trusting him to do mighty things in our lives—and then by giving him the glory when he does.

How does today's culture encourage self-reliance and self-congratulation? What areas of your life are hard to turn over to God? Pray that you'll experience God's faithfulness as you fully entrust your life—and this lesson—to him.



Moses and the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–15:21

Large-Group
Lesson
1

Welcome



Allow 5 minutes

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

- 1 COUNT DOWN**
Play one of the countdowns. Have children get with their small groups, and get them excited to worship!
- 2 GREET**
Have small-group leaders greet kids in their groups—especially guests.
- 3 ANNOUNCE**
Make any announcements (including birthdays), and collect offerings.

Praise & Worship



Allow 10 minutes

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

- 1 SING**
“Living Inside Out” (Song 1)
“Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) (Song 2)
“No Greater Love” (John 15:13) (Song 3)
“God of Great Wonders” (Psalm 77:14) (Song 7)
- 2 PRAY**
Thank God because he’s always ready to help us, he’s always with us, and he helps us accomplish great things for him.
- 3 MAKE THE CONNECTION**
Say: **Today we’re going to meet a famous Bible hero “up close and personal.” This guy knew that ► true heroes give God the credit. We can learn to give God the credit, too. Whenever something good happens to us or we succeed or we get out of a tough situation—that’s the perfect time to give God the credit. So let’s get started!**

Leader Tip

Easy Options:

- Sing along with DVD lyrics and motions.
- Sing along with the CD.
- Show media slides provided on the CD.





Skit

YOU'LL NEED

Bible • TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • 1 red, green, or yellow balloon per child • curling ribbon (optional)

Balloon Bop

1

DISTRIBUTE

Have kids get into pairs. Give a balloon to each child, randomly mixing up the colors.

2

BEGIN

Open your Bible to Exodus, and say: **In the Bible, we find out how God helped the Israelites escape from the Egyptians. God used a man named Moses to lead the Israelites to safety. Moses was a true hero, and he gave God the credit for helping the Israelites escape.**

3

ACT

Follow the instructions in the skit *Balloon Bop* on page 12 of this leader guide.

4

DISCUSS IN GROUPS Balloon Bop Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- What amazed you about this story?
- Why did Moses and the Israelites give God the credit for saving them?
- How have you given God the credit when he's helped you through a difficult situation?

5

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **Moses could've taken the credit for saving the Israelites, but he knew that ► true heroes give God the credit. Without God, Moses couldn't have done any of those cool things, including leading the people out of Egypt and parting the Red Sea. Just like Moses, we can give God the credit for all the things he helps us do!**

Leader Tip

Prepare Ahead

Inflate the balloons and tie them off. If you feel that kids will have trouble holding on to their balloons, attach a ribbon "handle" to each balloon.

⚠ WARNING:

Children under 8 years old can choke on uninflated balloons. Adult supervision required. Discard broken balloons at once. Balloons may contain latex.





Object Lesson

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • dry-erase board or easel with paper • marker

The Art of Giving Credit

1 INTRODUCE

Hold up the marker and say: **Sometimes when we do something good, we may think we're pretty great. Sometimes we might think we should get all the credit.**

2 PRAISE

Start drawing a simple picture with the marker. While drawing, comically praise the marker. Say: **Oh, how wonderful you are, marker! You draw the most beautiful pictures! Marker, you are so talented!** About halfway through your drawing, ask a child to come up and thank the marker. Encourage the child to talk right to the marker, giving it praise. Have the child hand the marker to two other kids, and have them all say wonderful things to the marker.

3 TEACH

Get the marker back and finish the picture. Step back from your drawing and say: **What a fabulous picture my talented marker drew! Three cheers for the marker!** Lead kids in three "hip-hip-hoorays" for the marker.

4 DISCUSS IN GROUPS The Art of Giving Credit Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- Talk about where the credit for the picture should go.
- What things does God do that only he can do?
- What happens when we take credit for something that only God can do?

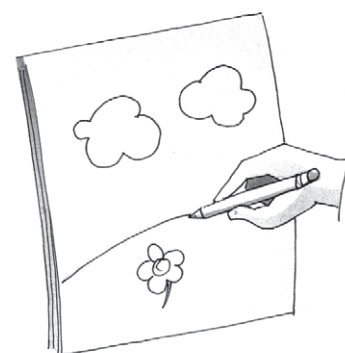
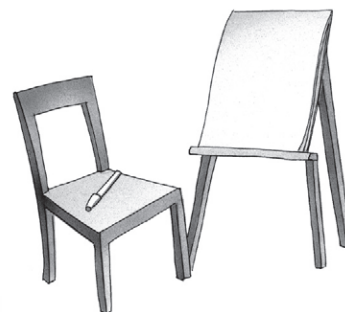
5 MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **The truth is, we're like the marker. We can create things—but when we're in God's hands, we can create a masterpiece! When we praise God for amazing things he does, we become true heroes—because ► true heroes give God the credit.**

Leader Tip

Prepare Ahead

Set up the dry-erase board or easel with paper in front of the group.





Experiment

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

Waves of Praise

1

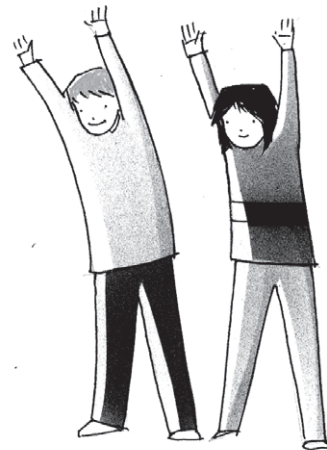
GET STARTED

Say: **In today's story, God helped Moses part the Red Sea. God used Moses in an amazing way, and God can use you, too. Let's use a giant wave to praise God!** Designate four separate groups, and assign each group one of the following syllables: *hah, lay, lou, yah*.

2

LEAD

Explain that when you point to each group, kids in that group should shout their syllable while making a wave motion with their arms. Lead the praise with the syllables jumbled. Add variety by going slowly and then faster and faster. End by putting the syllables in order and having kids make the "hallelujah" wave several times.



3

DISCUSS IN GROUPS

DVD

Waves of Praise Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- How did all our unique sounds make a wave of praise?
- Talk about a unique gift or talent God has given you.
- How can you use your unique gifts or talents for God this week?

4

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **God gave each of us gifts and talents that we can use to serve him. It's good to praise and thank God for our gifts and talents, because ► true heroes give God the credit. Let's do one more wave of praise to give God the credit for giving us talents and helping us use them.** Lead kids in a final wave of praise.





Game

YOU'LL NEED

Bible • TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

Freak-Out-O-Meter

1 BEGIN

Explain that the room will represent a living “Freak-Out-O-Meter.” The room will be like a scale: One wall will represent “totally, completely, absolutely terrified,” and the opposite wall will represent “not freaked out at all.” Then invite a child to read aloud Exodus 14:5-9.

2 FREAK

Say: **Imagine you were an Israelite trapped between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea. Where would you be on the Freak-Out-O-Meter? Go stand there.** Pause. **Now turn to someone near you and discuss this question: Why did you stand where you did?**

Read the following scenarios, and let kids show their reactions by standing at the appropriate wall of the Freak-Out-O-Meter. After each scenario, have kids turn to new partners to explain their choices.

- **Think about your first day at school. Your parents just dropped you off, the bell rang, and everyone headed inside. How freaked out did you feel?**
- **Think about a time you sang in front of people, maybe for a solo or a school concert. How freaked out did you feel?**
- **Think about a time you couldn't find your mom or dad. How freaked out did you feel?**
- **Think of someone you know who doesn't know Jesus. You felt like God was telling you to tell that person all about God, Jesus, and church. How freaked out did you feel?**

3

DISCUSS IN GROUPS Freak-Out-O-Meter Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- **What did the Israelites learn about God?**
- **When has God helped you in a freaky situation?**
- **Why is giving God the credit an important trait of a true hero?**

4

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **Like the Israelites, we sometimes get in situations that can freak us out. But just as God helped the Israelites, God will help us. Moses was a true hero, and ► true heroes give God the credit. We can be true heroes, too, when we give God the credit for the things he does for us.**



Balloon Bop

THE SKIT

This telling of the Bible story involves everyone! Using balloons to designate roles, kids decide what they'd do if they were either the Israelites or the Egyptians in this Bible account—and the drama will unfold!

YOU'LL NEED

THE SCENE

Designate one side of your large-group area as Egypt and the other side as the Promised Land. The middle of the room will be the Red Sea.

THE SIMPLE SETUP

Have kids with yellow and green balloons move together to the side of the room designated as Egypt. Have kids with red balloons move to the Red Sea area. Have kids with yellow and green balloons practice bopping them up and down as if the Israelites and Egyptians are walking. Have kids with red balloons pass them back and forth to suggest waves and currents.

Explain that sometimes during the story kids will pass the balloons from person to person. At other times, kids will move while holding the balloons.

THE CAST

- Narrator (you!)
- Egyptians (green balloons)
- Israelites (yellow balloons)
- Red Sea (red balloons)

THE PROPS

- 1 red, green, or yellow balloon per child

NARRATOR

I'll tell the story while your balloons act it out. The Israelites and Egyptians all lived together in Egypt because the Israelites were slaves there. The Israelites had to do anything the Egyptians said to do.

Have kids pass the yellow and green balloons from person to person so they're mingled in "Egypt." Have the red balloons keep making waves in the Red Sea.

NARRATOR

After hundreds of years, God named Moses as leader of the Israelites. God told Moses he'd help him lead the people out of slavery in Egypt. With God's help, Moses forced the Egyptian leader to let the Israelites leave. The Israelites headed into the desert, and the Egyptians stayed put.

Have kids pass the yellow balloons out of "Egypt" and toward the center of the room. Kids who end up holding yellow balloons should move toward the "Red Sea." Kids holding green balloons should keep them bopping in "Egypt."

NARRATOR

The Israelites were so happy not to be slaves anymore that they jumped for joy.

Have kids vigorously bop the yellow balloons.

NARRATOR

Then they traveled for days, led by God. Finally, they camped by the Red Sea.

Have kids bop the yellow balloons to the Red Sea.

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, the Egyptian leader got upset because he had let all the slaves go. The Egyptians were mad!

Have kids bop the green balloons vigorously.

NARRATOR

They came up with a plan to capture the escaping Israelites. The Israelites heard the Egyptians coming and shook with fear as the army came after them.

Have kids shake the yellow balloons. Allow kids with green balloons to chase kids with yellow balloons.



NARRATOR

Moses told the people to trust God. God told Moses to raise his staff over the water. Then God opened the waters of the Red Sea so the Israelites could walk through.

Have kids move the red balloons so there's a space for kids with the yellow balloons to walk through to the other side.

NARRATOR

The Israelites walked through the Red Sea on dry land, with big walls of water on either side. When they had all passed through, the Egyptians followed.

Have kids with green balloons walk into the "Red Sea."

NARRATOR

God closed the waters of the Red Sea over the Egyptians, and they were drowned.

Have kids pull the green balloons down to the floor and move the red balloons back together, as if the green balloons are being "swallowed up" by the red balloons.

NARRATOR

God did an amazing miracle! The Israelites were saved, and Moses knew exactly who should get all the credit. The Israelites praised God with all their might by jumping, smiling, dancing, and singing at the top of their voices!

Have kids stand up and praise God by jumping, smiling and dancing with their balloons.

NARRATOR

Moses gave God the credit for saving the Israelites, and the Israelites knew that God had saved them in a mighty way. They put their faith in God!

Have kids bop the yellow balloons vigorously. Then collect the balloons and have kids return to their small groups.





David Defeats Goliath

1 Samuel 17:1-50

Large-Group
Lesson
2

◀ The Point ▶

True heroes rely on God for strength.



Key Verse

"Be strong and courageous!"
—Joshua 1:9


CHOOSE YOUR OPTIONS

Each option below is designed to last 10 minutes. The option used to tell the Bible story is designated with the Bible image. Always do this option first in your large-group time. Use the chart below to plan the rest of your large-group time in whatever order fits your needs. Check the options you want to use.

Large Group

YOU'LL NEED

Bible • TV or video projection unit (VPU) • DVD player • CD player

Choose Your Options	Get Your Supplies	Planning Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome <i>Connect With Groups</i>	• Large-Group DVD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Praise & Worship <i>Sing It Out</i>	• Large-Group DVD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skit <i>Be Strong!</i> 	• Large-Group DVD • chair • large, adult-sized coat • oversized hat • cardboard wrapping paper tube	
<input type="checkbox"/> Experiment <i>Tower of Power</i>	• Large-Group DVD • 10 inflated balloons per small group • 1 roll of masking tape per small group • Kaboom Sticks (<i>provided in kit</i>)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Game <i>Trouble Tag</i>	• Large-Group DVD • 1 balloon per small group • 1 cotton ball per small group	
<input type="checkbox"/> DVD Drama <i>Facing Our Goliaths</i>	• Large-Group DVD	

Teach the Key Verse anytime during large group.

Small Group

WHAT GROUPS WILL NEED

Bibles • Bible Memory Makers® • "Living Inside Out Every Day!" handouts

Preschool Supplies	Lower Elementary Supplies	Upper Elementary Supplies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 gumdrops per child • crayons • 1 paper lunch sack per child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 white 13-gallon handle-tie trash bag per child • permanent markers • clear mailing tape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper • markers



David Defeats Goliath

1 Samuel 17:1-50



Bible Foundation

STRATEGIC POSITIONING

When the Philistine and Israelite armies gathered their troops for battle at the valley of Elah, they settled on opposite hills and lingered, watching each other for 40 days without attacking. This may seem like an odd tactic, but if either army rushed down its hill and across the valley to attack first, that army would likely suffer tremendous casualties. So each army waited for the other.

A SCARY ADVERSARY

In ancient times, when “war champions” such as Goliath were designated to fight as representatives of their armies, the outcome of the entire battle was to rest on that one fight. However, armies believed that the results of the fight were controlled more by the warriors’ gods than by the strength or cunning of the warriors themselves. Saul apparently wasn’t confident enough in God to face Goliath. Fortunately, David was!

DAVID FIGHTS THE ODDS

David’s willingness to fight Goliath is remarkable on several counts: First, he was a shepherd boy of about 16 years, not an experienced warrior. In addition, he entered the fight under the mocking ridicule of his older brother who—though afraid to face Goliath himself—accused David of chasing fame and glory. Finally, while the giant was outfitted with armor, sword, spear, and javelin, David rejected the offer of King Saul’s own armor and weaponry, preferring nothing but the armor of faith.

DAVID RELIES ON GOD FOR VICTORY

The decisive moment came. Imagine the Israelites’ tension as they watched an inexperienced boy determine the outcome of their entire battle. And imagine the adrenaline coursing through this young shepherd as he charged the lumbering giant, wielding only a slingshot and a mighty faith in God! We know how the story ends. Shouting a tribute to the Lord of heaven’s armies, David defeated the giant with a single shot from his sling, securing victory for the entire army of Israel. God honored David’s faith with triumph.

LIVING INSIDE OUT

The story of David and Goliath is a favorite among children who like to see the “little guy” come out on top. How can we not be inspired when God works a miracle through a mere boy? Armed with faith, David faced a challenge of gigantic proportions—and won. Similarly, no matter what issues we face, Jesus is our strength and shield. A relationship with Jesus can give us confidence. Living out our faith is our testimony to a Lord who is mightier than any Goliath.

What calling do you have that others may think you’re “too small” for? Pray that Jesus will give you the courage to overcome doubters, and pray that you’ll be able to communicate his faithfulness as you teach this lesson.



David Defeats Goliath

1 Samuel 17:1-50

Large-Group
Lesson
2

Welcome



Allow 5 minutes

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

- 1 COUNT DOWN**
Play one of the countdowns. Have children get with their small groups, and get them excited to worship!
- 2 GREET**
Have small-group leaders greet kids in their groups—especially guests.
- 3 ANNOUNCE**
Make any announcements (including birthdays), and collect offerings.

Praise & Worship



Allow 10 minutes

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

- 1 SING**
"Living Inside Out" (Song 1)
"Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (Song 2)
"Pray" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) (Song 4)
"Nothing Is Impossible" (Luke 1:37) (Song 6)
- 2 PRAY**
Thank God because he cares about us, he knows everything about us, and he gives us strength to get through hard times.
- 3 MAKE THE CONNECTION**
Say: **When I count to three, shout the name of a superhero you've heard about. Ready? One...two...three!** After kids shout a name, say: **Superheroes are make-believe—but I know a real hero. The Bible tells us about a boy named David who defeated the champion warrior of all the Philistines. David prayed and asked God for strength, because he knew that**
► **true heroes rely on God for strength.**

Leader Tip

Easy Options:

- Sing along with DVD lyrics and motions.
- Sing along with the CD.
- Show media slides provided on the CD.





Skit

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • chair • large, adult-sized coat • oversized hat • cardboard wrapping paper tube

Be Strong!

1

INTRODUCE

Say: **Today we'll find out how David discovered that ► true heroes rely on God for strength. But I'll need your help as I tell the story. Each time I say the name *David*, flex your arm muscles like this (demonstrate) and shout, "Be strong!"**

2

ACT

Perform the skit *Be Strong!* on page 22 of this leader guide.

3

DISCUSS IN GROUPS Be Strong! Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- Why wasn't David afraid of Goliath?
- Why do you think David didn't use Saul's armor?
- What do you do when you face a big problem?

4

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **David could've run from Goliath the way the other Israelite soldiers did, but instead he accepted the giant's challenge. Rather than cover himself with man-made armor, he met Goliath on the battlefield with nothing but a slingshot and—most of all—a mighty trust in God. David knew that ► true heroes rely on God for strength.**





Experiment

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • 10 inflated balloons per small group • 1 roll of masking tape per small group • Kaboom Sticks (provided in kit)

Tower of Power

1 GET STARTED

Have kids gather in small groups. Give each group about 10 balloons and a roll of tape.

2 EXPLAIN

Say: **David may have seemed pretty strong on his own, but he knew that ► true heroes rely on God for strength. Let's try to build something strong on our own. Each group will build a tower that stands as tall and straight as possible. There's just one rule: You can only use the balloons and tape I've given you. When I clap these Kaboom Sticks, you can begin. When you hear the sticks again, you will stop building.** Hit the sticks together, and encourage all kids to contribute and to use only the inflated balloons and tape to make their towers.

3 GUESS

When most of the groups have used all their balloons, stop the activity by hitting the Kaboom Sticks together. Say: **Even though Goliath looked pretty scary, God gave David the power to knock him over with a stone. Raise your hand if you think a stone could knock over your balloon tower.** Pause. **Raise your hand if you think a bit of air could knock over your tower. When you hear the Kaboom Sticks, work with your group to try to blow your tower over.**

4 EXPERIMENT

Signal again with the Kaboom Sticks, and have each group try to blow its tower over.

5 DISCUSS IN GROUPS Tower of Power Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

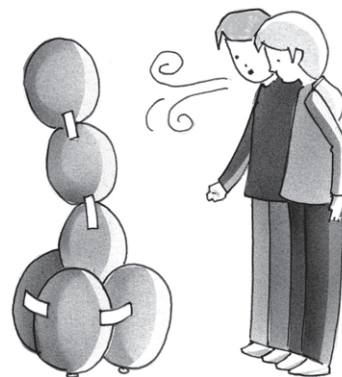
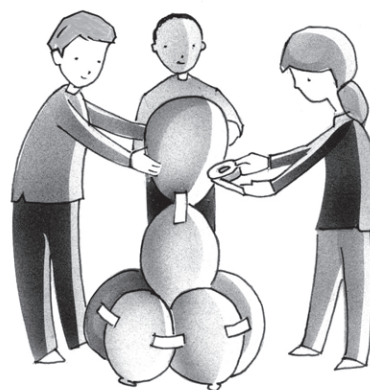
- Talk about how easy or hard it was to knock over your tower with air.
- What things in our lives can make it hard to be strong?
- How can relying on God help us be strong when those things try to "knock us over"?

6 MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **We're a lot like our balloons—we need God for real strength! Our balloon towers weren't even strong enough to stand up against air, and we aren't strong enough to be true heroes without God. Remember, ► true heroes rely on God for strength.**

⚠ WARNING:

Children under 8 years old can choke on uninflated balloons. Adult supervision required. Discard broken balloons at once. Balloons may contain latex.





Game

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • 1 balloon per small group • 1 cotton ball per small group

Trouble Tag

1

INTRODUCE

Have small groups each form a circle. Give each group a balloon and a cotton ball. Say: **When facing Goliath, God gave David strength. We can rely on God to give us strength, too, to defeat the things that trouble us. Let's play a game of Trouble Tag to help us remember that ► true heroes rely on God for strength.**

2

EXPLAIN

Tell groups that they'll each start the balloon and the cotton ball at opposite sides of their circle. Say: **On "go," quickly pass the balloon and cotton ball around your circle to the right. Pass the objects to the right so the balloon, which is "Goliath," chases the cotton ball, which is "David." Don't let the balloon catch up!**

3

PLAY

Say "go," and let kids play for about a minute. Without warning, shout: **Switch directions! David stood up to Goliath and is now chasing him!** Play for another minute or until the cotton ball catches the balloon.

4

DISCUSS IN GROUPS Trouble Tag Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- **What were you thinking as an object got closer to the one it was chasing?**
- **When it comes to facing problems, talk about whether you run the other way or turn and face them.**
- **How can God give us the strength to turn around and face our troubles or challenges?**

5

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **When we're in trouble, we might want to run in the other direction. But God tells us to be courageous. He can give us strength when we're troubled or afraid, just as he gave David the strength to face Goliath. Remember, ► true heroes rely on God for strength.**

⚠ WARNING:

Children under 8 years old can choke on uninflated balloons. Adult supervision required. Discard broken balloons at once. Balloons may contain latex.





DVD Drama

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

Facing Our Goliaths

1 INTRODUCE

Say: **David was a young Bible hero challenged with a giant-sized problem. Let's see what other young people have to say about challenges they face in their lives.**

2 WATCH Facing Our Goliaths

Cue the DVD to the video *Facing Our Goliaths*.

3 DISCUSS IN GROUPS Facing Our Goliaths Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- **How are the stories you heard about on the video like or unlike your own stories of things that are scary or hard for you?**
- **Talk about a time you felt scared or faced something that was hard.**
- **How can you rely on God for strength?**

4 MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **Sometimes giant-sized problems seem impossible to beat. We might feel the way the kids did in the video. But like those kids, we can remember that ► true heroes rely on God for strength—and then those problems might not seem quite so big after all!**

Leader Tip

Younger kids in this age group may feel shy about telling a personal story of being scared. Small-group leaders, during the discussion time, can encourage younger kids by sharing a personal story to break the ice.



Be Strong!

THE SKIT

In this interactive skit, the kids participate in the story by flexing their muscles and shouting “Be strong!” each time you say the name *David*.

YOU’LL NEED

THE SCENE

The actual scene is unimportant for the telling of this story, but you might ask kids to imagine they’re in a big field where a battle is going on.

THE SIMPLE SETUP

Before starting the skit, choose a willing child to join you at the front to play the part of David.

THE CAST

- Narrator (you)
- David, played by a willing child

THE PROPS

- chair
- large, adult-sized coat
- oversized hat
- cardboard wrapping paper tube

NARRATOR

Long ago, a young shepherd named David ("Be strong!") saw a Philistine soldier challenge the Israelites to a fight. But the Israelites were afraid of Goliath, the Philistine. Do you know why?

Allow time, and then take a few answers from the audience.

NARRATOR

He was a giant! Goliath was over 9 feet tall! He looked like this!

Stand on a chair and look down at David.

NARRATOR

He was huge! But even though David ("Be strong!") was just a boy, he wasn't afraid. He knew that God could give him strength to beat the giant, so he told his king that he would fight Goliath. Turn to the person next to you—one of you will be the king, and one of you will be David. ("Be strong!") Davids ("Be strong!"), tell the kings how you'd fight Goliath!

Allow time, and then raise your hands to get the audience's attention.

NARRATOR

The difference between David ("Be strong!") and Goliath was big! And to make matters worse, Goliath wore lots of armor and carried a sword, a javelin, and a heavy spear. King Saul was worried about David ("Be strong!"), so he gave David ("Be strong!") his armor.

Comically put the large adult coat and oversized hat on David.

NARRATOR

The king didn't think that was enough. He gave him his sword, too.

Give the cardboard wrapping paper tube to David.

NARRATOR

(To audience) There! What do you think of him now?

Allow time, and then take a few answers from the audience.



NARRATOR

(To David) Well? How do you feel? Does this armor fit?

Let David answer, and then continue with the script.

NARRATOR

The armor didn't fit. David ("*Be strong!*") didn't want to fight with someone else's armor. In fact, our hero David ("*Be strong!*") trusted God for strength—so he fought Goliath with only a slingshot and five stones. Go ahead and take off that armor.

Help David take the armor off, and then put your hands on David's shoulders.

NARRATOR

David ("*Be strong!*") told Goliath that he would conquer him in God's name, because he knew that true heroes rely on God for strength. When David ("*Be strong!*") relied on God for strength, he triumphed over that mighty giant. And guess what? With God's help, you can do the same with any problem you face.





Elijah Challenges the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:16-39

Large-Group
Lesson
3

◀ The Point ▶

True heroes stand up for God.



Key Verse

"Be strong and courageous!"

—Joshua 1:9

CHOOSE YOUR OPTIONS

Each option below is designed to last 10 minutes. The option used to tell the Bible story is designated with the Bible image. Always do this option first in your large-group time. Use the chart below to plan the rest of your large-group time in whatever order fits your needs. Check the options you want to use.

Large Group

YOU'LL NEED

Bible • TV or video projection unit (VPU) • DVD player • CD player

Choose Your Options	Get Your Supplies	Planning Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Connect With Groups	• Large-Group DVD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Praise & Worship Sing It Out	• Large-Group DVD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DVD Drama Fiery Challenge 	• Large-Group DVD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Object Lesson Mighty Small Heroes	• Large-Group DVD • 1 small (dime-sized) wad of paper per small group • 1 empty plastic water bottle per small group	
<input type="checkbox"/> Experiment Courageous Stand	• Large-Group DVD • 1 chair for every 2 children	
<input type="checkbox"/> Game Standing Strong	• Large-Group DVD	

Teach the Key Verse anytime during large group.

Small Group

WHAT GROUPS WILL NEED

Bibles • Bible Memory Makers® • "Living Inside Out Every Day!" handouts

Preschool Supplies	Lower Elementary Supplies	Upper Elementary Supplies
• no supplies necessary	• 1 sheet of paper	• 1 sheet of red and 1 sheet of blue construction paper per 2 kids • 4 items to serve as goal posts, such as cones, paper towel rolls, or chairs • 1 foam ball



← Tear off for easy planning. →

Elijah Challenges the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:16-39



Bible Foundation

PROPHETS ARE TARGETED

The beginning of 1 Kings 18 tells us that during the time Elijah was staying in Zarephath, Ahab, the king of Israel, was looking for him. Jezebel, Ahab's wife, had been killing prophets who followed God, and we can assume Ahab and Jezebel wanted to do the same to Elijah.

DROUGHT GROWS WORSE

God instructed Elijah to present himself to Ahab. The drought had grown severe, and Ahab's first words to Elijah indicate that Ahab blamed Elijah for the drought. The crime Ahab accused Elijah of—being a "troublemaker of Israel"—was punishable by death. However, instead of ordering Elijah's execution, Ahab listened to Elijah and did what the prophet said, likely because he hoped Elijah would be able to end the drought.

ELIJAH'S CHALLENGE

Elijah's challenge was intended to publicly prove that the God of Israel is the one true God so that the people would turn from their worship of Baal and once again worship God. Elijah wanted to ensure that there could be no doubt of the contest's fairness, so he asked that all 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah be present to plead with Baal. Before Elijah made this demonstration of God's power, the people refused to commit themselves to either God or Baal.

ELIJAH TAUNTS THE PROPHETS

After quite some time had passed without a response from Baal, Elijah taunted the false prophets, revealing his knowledge of existing myths about Baal. The prophets' response was to cut themselves, a common practice in the pagan worship of those days. People believed that injuring themselves would convince their gods that they were sincere and deserved a response.

GOD'S VICTORY

When it was his turn, Elijah once again wanted to ensure that the contest couldn't possibly be seen as slanted in God's favor. That's why he had the altar and sacrifice drenched with water. Elijah wanted to show beyond all doubt that the God of Israel is the one true God. When God responded, as Elijah knew he would, the people made the right choice. With the people on his side, Elijah took advantage of the moment to get rid of the false prophets, and Ahab didn't stop him. God proved his power and then released the rain to end the drought in Israel.

LIVING INSIDE OUT

This passage makes clear that the culture of the time led many people away from the one true God to the false god Baal.

How does our culture today lead you away from God? What specific beliefs, hopes, and philosophies bombard you? Pray that God will lead you to a place of confidence in him and passion to serve him through teaching this lesson.



Elijah Challenges the Prophets of Baal

Large-Group
Lesson
3

1 Kings 18:16-39

Welcome



Allow 5 minutes

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

- 1 COUNT DOWN**
Play one of the countdowns. Have children get with their small groups, and get them excited to worship!
- 2 GREET**
Have small-group leaders greet kids in their groups—especially guests.
- 3 ANNOUNCE**
Make any announcements (including birthdays), and collect offerings.

Praise & Worship



Allow 10 minutes

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

- 1 SING**
"Living Inside Out" (Song 1)
"Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (Song 2)
"No Greater Love" (John 15:13) (Song 3)
"Be Strong in the Lord" (Ephesians 6:10) (Song 5)
- 2 PRAY**
Thank God for giving us courage and for being with us wherever we go.
- 3 MAKE THE CONNECTION**
Say: **Today we're talking about Elijah—a great man who stood up to people who said their god was better, bigger, and stronger than the one true God. Today, we'll learn that true heroes stand up for God—and Elijah was such a hero!**

Leader Tip

Easy Options:

- Sing along with DVD lyrics and motions.
- Sing along with the CD.
- Show media slides provided on the CD.





DVD Drama

YOU'LL NEED

Bible • TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

Fiery Challenge

1

GET STARTED

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 18:16-39. Say: **A man faced a group of people who didn't believe in the one true God. This man proved that, with God's power working in him, he could be a hero and that ► true heroes stand up for God. Let's watch!**

2

WATCH **Fiery Challenge**

Cue the DVD to the *Fiery Challenge* video.

3

DISCUSS IN GROUPS **Fiery Challenge Questions**

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- **Why do you think Elijah wasn't afraid to stand up to the prophets of Baal?**
- **Tell about a time you stood up for something you knew was right.**
- **What's one way you can be like Elijah and stand up for God this week?**

4

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **Elijah's story showed us how ► true heroes stand up for God. Elijah knew God would give him strength and make him brave. We can be just like Elijah—we can know that God will give us strength and make us brave, especially when it's hard to stand up for God. We can be true heroes, too!**





Object Lesson

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • 1 small (dime-sized) wad of paper per small group • 1 empty plastic water bottle per small group

Mighty Small Heroes

1 INTRODUCE

Give each small group an empty plastic water bottle and a small wad of paper. Hold up one of the wads of paper, and say: **We all have times when we're challenged about our belief in God. Raise your hand if you've ever been caught in a strong wind.** Place the wad of paper in your palm, and hold up your palm so everyone can see. Say: **Windy storms can be hard, and sometimes** (blow the wad of paper off your palm) **they can even blow you over if you don't stand strong.** Pick up the wad of paper, and say: **However, God's power can make us strong enough to stand up for what is right—in any storm.**

2 DEMONSTRATE

Show groups how to tip their bottle on its side. Place the wad of paper just inside the neck of the bottle. Say: **Let's imagine that you are the little wad of paper. Let's also imagine that the inside of the bottle is a bad choice—and you're feeling peer pressure to make that bad choice. Let's see what can happen when God helps us stand up for him when the winds of peer pressure or the storms of life try to blow us into making a bad choice.**

3 EXPERIMENT

Have kids take turns trying to blow the paper into the bottle. The harder the child blows, the faster the paper will fly out.

4 DISCUSS IN GROUPS Mighty Small Heroes Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- **Why do you think the paper can't be blown into the bottle?**
- **Talk about a time you felt life was trying to blow you over.**
- **How does God help us stand strong at all times?**

5 MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: ► **True heroes stand up for God. Standing up for the right thing, especially when faced with a hard choice, isn't always easy. With God's help, though, we stand strong—and when we stand up for God, that makes us true heroes. We depend on God to help us stand up for him!**





Experiment

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • 1 chair for every 2 children

Courageous Stand

Leader Tip

The leader can demonstrate, or kids could participate in pairs.

1

INTRODUCE

Say: **God showed his power to Elijah with fire from heaven. His demonstration for Elijah on Mount Carmel was a surprising display of power! Let's do an experiment that may surprise you.**

2

EXPLAIN

Have children face each other with one child seated and one standing. Have the seated child sit up straight with arms crossed over his or her chest and feet flat on the floor in front of the chair. Ask the standing child to place an index finger against the forehead of the seated child.

3

EXPERIMENT

Have the seated child attempt to stand without using his or her hands to push off the chair. It's virtually impossible. After each pair attempts to stand, have kids switch places and try again.

4

DISCUSS IN GROUPS

DVD



Courageous Stand Questions

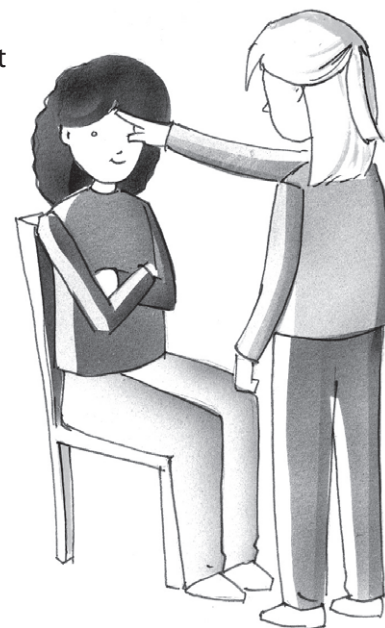
Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- Talk about how easy or hard it was to stand.
- How is this like or unlike when we stand up for God?
- What's hard about standing up for God?

5

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **Even though we can't see God, his power is with us when we face hard situations. God's power keeps us strong—and ► true heroes stand up for God.**





Game

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

Standing Strong

Leader Tip

If time permits, have kids come up with their own questions to ask the group.

1

INTRODUCE

Say: **Elijah needed courage from God to stand up to all the people who thought Baal could be like God. Let's practice how much we need to lean on God's power when we stand up for our belief in God.**

2

FIND A PARTNER

Have kids sit back to back on the floor with their legs crossed in front of them. It's best if partners are similar in size. Have kids link elbows.

3

EXPLAIN

Tell pairs that for each statement you say, they'll attempt to stand up without letting go of their partner or using their hands for support.

4

CHALLENGE

- I stand up and say no when asked to do something mean.
- I stand up and say no when asked to cheat.
- I stand up and tell my friends that I love Jesus.
- I stand up and tell my friends that Jesus is my hero.

5

DISCUSS IN GROUPS Standing Strong Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- How is leaning on God the same as or different from leaning on your partner?
- In what ways do you need God's help to stand at school or home?
- How can leaning on God's power help you be strong and courageous?

6

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **We can use what we've learned about God's power if we ever have to stand up for what we believe. For example, God is with us when a friend teases us about going to church or when someone asks why we believe in Jesus. God will help us be a true hero—and ► true heroes stand up for God.**





group.com/sunday-school



Daniel Survives the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:1-23

Large-Group
Lesson
4

◀ The Point ▶

True heroes trust God to protect them.



Key Verse

"Be strong and courageous!"
—Joshua 1:9


CHOOSE YOUR OPTIONS

Each option below is designed to last 10 minutes. The option used to tell the Bible story is designated with the Bible image. Always do this option first in your large-group time. Use the chart below to plan the rest of your large-group time in whatever order fits your needs. Check the options you want to use.

Large Group

YOU'LL NEED

Bible • TV or video projection unit (VPU) • DVD player • CD player

Choose Your Options	Get Your Supplies	Planning Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome <i>Connect With Groups</i>	• Large-Group DVD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Praise & Worship <i>Sing It Out</i>	• Large-Group DVD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skit <i>Daring Daniel</i> 	• Large-Group DVD • large Bible • 4 neck signs that read King Darius, Nobleman, Nobleman, and Daniel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Object Lesson <i>Comfortable Conversations</i>	• Large-Group DVD • Large-Group CD • Throw & Tell Ball (<i>provided in kit</i>)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Large-Group Game <i>Attempt to Protect</i>	• Large-Group DVD • balloons	
<input type="checkbox"/> Small-Group Game <i>Lion Paw Tag</i>	• Large-Group DVD • 1 Bible per small group	

Teach the Key Verse anytime during large group.

Small Group

WHAT GROUPS WILL NEED

Bibles • Bible Memory Makers* • "Living Inside Out Every Day!" handouts

Preschool Supplies	Lower Elementary Supplies	Upper Elementary Supplies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper plates • plastic spoons • 1 soft tortilla per child • one 2-pound bag of shredded cheese • 3 pepperoni slices per child • 1 jar of pizza sauce • 3 sticks of string cheese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper plates • plastic spoons • 1 soft tortilla per child • one 2-pound bag of shredded cheese • 3 pepperoni slices per child • 1 jar of pizza sauce • 3 sticks of string cheese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper plates • plastic spoons • 1 soft tortilla per child • one 2-pound bag of shredded cheese • 3 pepperoni slices per child • 1 jar of pizza sauce • 3 sticks of string cheese

ALLERGY ALERT

ALLERGY ALERT

ALLERGY ALERT



Tear off for easy planning.

Daniel Survives the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:1-23



Bible Foundation

A NEW KING AND HIS COURT

One of the first things King Darius did when he took over Belshazzar's kingdom was to divide it into provinces and appoint administrators. Fortunately for Daniel, his reputation and favor with the king earned him a post as overseer of all the leaders of Babylon. Unfortunately, the other administrators soon became jealous of his success.

SCHEMING LEADERS

These jealous leaders set a trap for Daniel, hoping to use his devotion to God as his ultimate downfall. Knowing that Daniel would pray only to his God, the leaders convinced King Darius to write a decree outlawing prayer to anyone but the king. Anyone violating this law within the next 30 days would be thrown into the lions' den. As we might expect, Daniel's devotion to God didn't waver. He continued to pray at home, but the leaders caught him in the act and reported him to the king. King Darius, who greatly valued Daniel, was trapped. In Medo-Persian law, once a king confirmed a law, it could not be changed.

A SADDENED KING

To the leaders' surprise, the king didn't respond in anger toward Daniel as they had hoped. King Darius was fond of Daniel and didn't want to have to execute his best leader. In fact, he set about to find a way to avoid following through on his order. But Daniel's enemies reminded the king about the Medo-Persian law, and Daniel was sent to the lions' den.

DANIEL IS SAVED

As unlikely as it seemed that Daniel could still be alive the next morning, Darius was the first one to the den to discover whether God had rescued him. To his great joy, he found that Daniel survived his ordeal without a scratch. God had closed the mouths of the lions, saving his faithful servant from what should have been a certain death.

GLORY TO GOD

Daniel's trust and devotion to God not only saved him from destruction, but also brought glory to God. In fact, King Darius issued a new decree that all should honor the Lord that Daniel prayed to!

LIVING INSIDE OUT

Even a death threat couldn't keep Daniel from following God and communing with him regularly. Daniel trusted God for protection, and God delivered him from a bad situation. Jesus desires our complete trust. We're bound to face those who try to draw us away from the one true Savior, but a relationship with Jesus protects us from those influences. We live out our faith when we trust Jesus with our very lives.

How does your lifestyle promote or discourage complete trust and obedience to God? What area of your life do you need to lay before God right now, trusting his protection and faithfulness? Pray for God's peace as you rely wholly on him, and ask for guidance as you teach children to trust him, too.



Daniel Survives the Lions' Den

Large-Group
Lesson
4

Daniel 6:1-23

Welcome



Allow 5 minutes

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

- 1 COUNT DOWN**
Play one of the countdowns. Have children get with their small groups, and get them excited to worship!
- 2 GREET**
Have small-group leaders greet kids in their groups—especially guests.
- 3 ANNOUNCE**
Make any announcements (including birthdays), and collect offerings.

Praise & Worship



Allow 10 minutes

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD

- 1 SING**
"Living Inside Out" (Song 1)
"Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (Song 2)
"Be Strong in the Lord" (Ephesians 6:10) (Song 5)
"Nothing Is Impossible" (Luke 1:37) (Song 6)
- 2 PRAY**
Thank God for working in us, for helping us be courageous, and for always protecting us.
- 3 MAKE THE CONNECTION**
Say: **Think of a superhero you've heard of who has an amazing ability—for example, the ability to climb a building or fly really fast. Pause. Those superheroes are make-believe, but the Bible tells us about ordinary people God used to show others his amazing power. Those ordinary people were true heroes, because ► true heroes trust God to protect them.**

Leader Tip

Easy Options:

- Sing along with DVD lyrics and motions.
- Sing along with the CD.
- Show media slides provided on the CD.





Skit

YOU'LL NEED

Large Bible • TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • 4 neck signs that read King Darius, Nobleman, Nobleman, and Daniel

Daring Daniel

1

INTRODUCE

Say: **Daniel was a true hero who trusted God for protection. Daniel and his friends were captured and put to work by the king of Babylon—but that didn't stop the young men from worshipping and praying to God! Daniel was so bright, so talented, and so smart that the king put him in charge of other noblemen—and the noblemen weren't happy about that. We're about to hear what the noblemen did to try to get Daniel in trouble.**

2

SPREAD OUT

Have everyone spread out in the room. Say: **Everyone will get to be part of this story. When I point out to you, repeat what I say. I'll need four kids to help out with the story.**

3

ACT

Follow the *Daring Daniel* script on page 40 of this leader guide.

4

DISCUSS IN GROUPS Daring Daniel Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- How did Daniel show he was a true hero?
- What does it mean to you to "trust God"?
- Tell about a time you trusted God for help.

5

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **It must've been scary to disobey a king's rule and even scarier to face a bunch of hungry lions! But Daniel honored God, and he trusted God to protect him. You can trust God, too. Even in the toughest times, remember that God is with you always—just as he was with Daniel. ► True heroes trust God to protect them.**

Leader Tip

Choose kids who don't mind "hamming it up" to be your actors. They'll act out the parts you read aloud as well as actions you will prompt them to do. Say the audience's parts aloud, and have kids in the audience repeat after you.





Object Lesson

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • CD player • Large-Group CD • Throw & Tell Ball (provided in kit)

Comfortable Conversations

Leader Tip

Have small-group leaders seated near younger kids, to help those who can't read, in case a preschooler catches the Throw & Tell Ball.

1 INTRODUCE

Have kids move around the room and sit next to someone they don't know very well. Hold up the Throw & Tell Ball, and say: **This ball is the perfect comfortable conversation starter! Let's play a game that'll help us get to know each other better. Toss the ball all around the room as we play a worship song. When the music stops, the person holding the ball will read aloud the question beneath his or her right pinky finger. Then you'll all answer that question with a partner.**

2 PLAY

Start the music, and toss out the ball. After kids have batted it about for a while, stop the music. Ask the child with the ball to read the question aloud, and then have kids answer the question with someone they don't know well who is seated near them. Repeat the process, playing the music, tossing the ball, and having kids discuss the question with the person they don't know well.

3 REPEAT

Have kids move around the room again, but this time, have them sit next to someone they know. Repeat the game two times, so kids discuss two questions with someone they know.

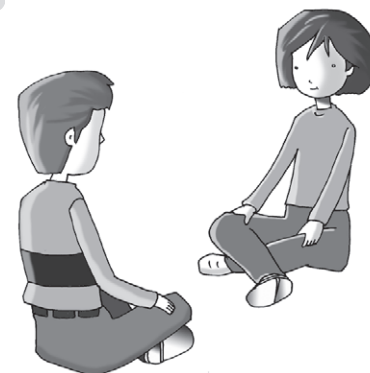
4 DISCUSS IN GROUPS Comfortable Conversations Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- What was it like to talk to someone you didn't know?
- How was this game like the way you feel when you talk with God?
- When do you feel most comfortable talking to God?

5 MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: ► **True heroes trust God to protect them—and we can build that trust by simply talking to God. The more we talk with God, the more comfortable we feel. In our conversations today, we may have been shy when we talked to someone we didn't know very well. But the more we talked, the more comfortable we became. Talking with God is the same!**





Large-Group Game

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • balloons

Attempt to Protect

1

INTRODUCTION

Say: **In our Bible story, the jealous noblemen wanted to harm Daniel. Even though King Darius wanted to protect Daniel, he was powerless to do so. We can't always trust people to protect us, but ► true heroes trust God to protect them. Let's play a game to remind us that God is our best protector.**

2

GET READY

Have about one third of the kids form a circle in the center of the large group and face out. Tell these kids they'll pretend to be King Darius. Have the rest of the group form a circle around them, and have them face the "King Darius" kids. Give each child in the outside circle two balloons. Tell them the balloons represent Daniel—and the kids are the jealous noblemen.

3

PLAY

Say: **Let's pretend the lions' den is in the middle of our King Darius circle. Jealous noblemen, your job is to send Daniel to the lions' den by batting your balloons past the kings. If you're a King Darius, your job is to protect Daniel by batting the balloons away from the den. Ready? Go!** Allow kids two minutes to try to get the balloon Daniels into the lions' den.

4

DISCUSS Attempt to Protect Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- **King Darius group, tell how successful you were in protecting Daniel from the lions' den.**
- **Jealous noblemen group, tell what it was like to try to send Daniel to the lions' den.**
- **When has God protected you from something dangerous like a lions' den?**

5

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **If Daniel had put his trust in King Darius, he'd be a lion's lunch by now. Daniel was a true hero, and he trusted God to protect him. We can be just like Daniel. ► True heroes trust God to protect them, and we can trust God, too.**

WARNING:

Children under 8 years old can choke on uninflated balloons. Adult supervision required. Discard broken balloons at once. Balloons may contain latex.





Allow 10 minutes

Small-Group Game

YOU'LL NEED

TV or VPU • DVD player • Large-Group DVD • 1 Bible per small group

Lion Paw Tag

1 INTRODUCE

Have small groups each sit in a circle. Have each small-group leader place a Bible in the center of the circle. Say: ► **True heroes trust God to protect them. Daniel trusted God to save him from the lion's den. I wonder if we can do the same!**

2 EXPLAIN

Appoint one child in each group to be the "lion." The "lion" can move around the outside of the circle, pretending to prowl for a meal, while the other kids sit with their hands in their laps. Explain that the Bible is a "safe place." When you say "Lions, prowl," the lions can start to move around the circle. Then after a few seconds, when you say "go," the rest of the kids must put their hands on the Bible before the lion grabs a hand.

3 PLAY

Say: **Lions, prowl!** to get the lions moving around the circle. After about 10 seconds, quickly say: **Go!** If the lion catches someone's hand before that person touches the Bible, that person is now the lion. Repeat as often as time permits, varying the time between prowling and your "Go!"

4 DISCUSS IN GROUPS Lion Paw Tag Questions

Cue the question screen for kids to answer each of the following:

- Describe your experience either as a lion or as someone trying to get to the safe place.
- How was this game like or unlike times you need protection?
- How does God protect us the way he protected Daniel?

5 MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **We might feel scared sometimes. We might be in situations where we need protection, the same way Daniel needed protection in the lions' den. And, just like Daniel, we can trust God to protect us. Daniel was a true hero, because ► true heroes trust God to protect them.**

Leader Tip

Encourage the "lions" to roar when they catch someone before he or she gets to the Bible!



Daring Daniel

THE SKIT

Perform this audience-participation drama by having actors wear signs to identify their roles. When the audience has a part, the Storyteller will prompt kids and give them their dialogue.

Leader Tip

Prepare Ahead

Make simple signs to identify the roles, and attach yarn to the signs so actors can wear them.

YOU'LL NEED

THE SCENE

The kingdom of Babylon

THE SIMPLE SETUP

Make a "stage" at the front of your room where the Storyteller can read aloud from a script within the Bible. The Storyteller may be seated, as long as the chair doesn't obstruct the actors.

THE CAST

- Storyteller
- King Darius
- 2 Noblemen
- Daniel

THE PROPS

- Large Bible
- Four neck signs that say the following:
 - King Darius
 - Nobelman
 - Nobelman
 - Daniel

ACTION!

The scene opens with the Storyteller seated on one side of the stage area. He or she is reading the script that is set in an open Bible, as if the story is coming from the Bible itself.

STORYTELLER

Long ago, in a far-off land called Babylon, there lived a king named King Darius.

Hang the "King Darius" sign around a child's neck.

STORYTELLER

He chose noblemen to rule over each state in his kingdom. King Darius also chose someone to be boss over the noblemen and to watch over the kingdom. That person was Daniel.

Choose two children to be Noblemen and one child to be Daniel. Hang the appropriate signs around their necks.

STORYTELLER

(To the child playing Daniel) Can I trust you?

Have Daniel respond affirmatively.

STORYTELLER

Wonderful! Daniel soon proved that he was more trustworthy than all the noblemen. Because Daniel was trustworthy, King Darius announced that he would place Daniel in charge of the entire kingdom.

Have King Darius mime making an announcement.

STORYTELLER

The noblemen were pretty unhappy about that, as you can see. They grumbled and complained!

Prompt the Noblemen to grumble.

STORYTELLER

The noblemen were so jealous. They tried to find something wrong with Daniel to get him into trouble. But Daniel was very good at his job! Daniel was faithful and honest and always responsible—and he prayed to God constantly!

Prompt Daniel to pray.



STORYTELLER

"Aha!" the noblemen said. They convinced King Darius to make a law that a person who prays to anyone but the king would be thrown to the lions.
Help me try to convince the king not to sign it!

Prompt audience to say, "Don't do it, King Darius!"

STORYTELLER

But King Darius signed the law.

Prompt King Darius to mime signing a paper.

STORYTELLER

When Daniel learned about this new law, he wasn't even scared. In fact, he went straight home and knelt down to pray to God just as he always did. He knelt in front of his window and prayed three times a day!

Prompt Daniel to kneel and pray three times.

STORYTELLER

Oh, no! The noblemen were spying on Daniel the whole time. Then they ran right back to the king to tell on Daniel!

Prompt Noblemen to "run" over to King Darius and tattle on Daniel.

STORYTELLER

As much as King Darius loved Daniel, he had to admit that the law must be obeyed. This made the king very sad. Hey, King, look sad.

Pause as King Darius looks sad. From here on, the kids will catch on to when they need to act. If needed, prompt them when they have an action to do.

STORYTELLER

The king paced back and forth, scratching his head as he tried to come up with a plan. But there was no way to change the law. King Darius gave orders for Daniel to be arrested. This made the noblemen very happy.

Meanwhile, the lions got ready for Daniel. Yikes! Those are scary lions!
Listen to them roar!

Prompt the audience to roar like lions and put up their hands like lion paws.



STORYTELLER

The noblemen brought Daniel to the lions' den, and they threw him in. King Darius was so heartbroken, he went to Daniel and said, "I truly hope you're rescued by the God you always worship." Then he sadly waved goodbye.

People rolled a stone across the front of the lions' den so Daniel couldn't escape. Inside the lions' den, a strange and wonderful thing occurred! God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths so they couldn't eat Daniel.

Prompt the audience to try to roar with their mouths closed.

Early the next morning, King Darius jumped out of bed and hurried out to the lions' den. When he got there, he called out, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?"

Daniel said, "Long live the king! My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me!" Can you hear the lions whimpering? That was great news! Let's all cheer for our God!

Lead audience in cheering.

STORYTELLER

Thank you, God, for showing us that true heroes can rely on you for protection. Thank you for helping us be strong and courageous when things get tough. We worship only you, God. Amen.

Have the audience applaud for the actors. Then congratulate the kids for being such a good audience!





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