

Alley SG - June 30-July 1, 2018

Bible Story: These Guys Aren't on Fire (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) • *Daniel 3*

Key Question: What does it mean to trust God?

Bottom Line: Trust that God is always with you.

Memory Verse: "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6, NIV

Just For Fun:

What You Need: Patriotic Lollipops (one per kid)

What You Do:

- **Hand out** one lollipop per student, ask **ASK:**
 - What's your favorite thing about 4th of July?
 - Does your family have any traditions/plans?
 - Do you have a favorite Fire Works show you go to?
- **Close Activity in Prayer**, something like...

"Dear Jesus, thank You for the freedom we have in You, and the freedoms we have here in America. We love You, and we can't wait to celebrate 4th of July this Wednesday! Keep us all safe while we celebrate. In Jesus Name, Amen!"

1. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- **Pair** kids of similar height.
- **Instruct** teams to stand next to each other, side by side, shoulders touching and facing the same direction.
- **Tell** kids to move their feet away from their partners as far as possible (without falling over) so that they are leaning into each other for support. Only their shoulders are touching.
- **Encourage** them to now walk together across the room (*within reason*) leaning on each other.
- **Give** the group an opportunity to switch partners.
- After the game is over, **let** kids share about the game they just played.
 - Did they like it?
 - What was hard about it?
 - If anyone fell over, let the pair talk about if it was funny or annoying, etc.

What You Say:

"As you were leaning on your partner, what do you think would happen if one person decided to quickly walk toward the goal without waiting for the other person? (*Let kids respond.*) To do this game successfully, we had to rely on each other. When we adjusted our positions, we had to trust our teammates to readjust as well. **[Transition] In Large Group we heard about someone we can always trust to be there for us. Who was that?"**

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Index cards (one per kid), markers, Bibles

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids together and give each kid an index card.
- **Encourage** kids to draw a scene from the Bible story and challenge them to fit the drawing on the card without sacrificing details. Kids can refer to Daniel 3 for ideas.
- Be sure to **draw** a scene too.
 - As you look at the kids' drawings, if there is a part of the story not being represented, draw something related to the missing part of the story.
 - Potential drawings could be: The statue of gold King Nebuchadnezzar made; a band playing music; people worshiping the statue; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego before the King standing up for what is right; the fiery furnace; four people in the furnace; King Nebuchadnezzar worshiping the one true God.
- As a group, **retell** the story using the pictures kids drew.
 - Even if several kids pick the same scene, there will be slight differences in their drawings that could prompt discussion.
- **Discuss** the story with the kids. If needed, potential discussion questions are listed below:
 - How do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego felt when they refused to worship the gold statue even when everyone around them was bowing down to it? How did having confidence in God help them?
 - Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego know God would save them? Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego know *how* God would rescue them from King Nebuchadnezzar? *Read Daniel 3:16-18.* How can we remind ourselves to have confidence and trust God even when we aren't sure of what will happen?
 - Is it possible to be afraid and still trust God? Is there a point in the story where you feel like that was happening for the main characters?
 - *Dig deeper – Can you think of a time you trusted God and you knew He was doing something and working in your situation? What happened? (Maybe there was a time you were afraid like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they stood before the king not knowing what would happen. Or your friends were making an unwise choice and you decided not to join them like when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego decided not to bow to the statue. Or maybe you knew you had to do something because it was the wise choice but you weren't sure how it would turn out.)*
 - **[Make it Personal] Share about a time when God did something big in your life and worked in a way that proved to you that you could trust Him.**

3. Discussion Questions

- What are ways God shows us He is always with us?
- What does it mean to trust God? What does someone who trusts God actually do and say, and how do they act? How does trusting God influence the decisions you make?
- When is it easy to trust God? When is it hard?
- Why do we know we can trust God? What can you do to remind yourself you can trust God no matter what? *(Make a list of God's promises, pray, memorize a verse that reminds you of God's trustworthiness, keep a journal and focus on recording times God showed up or times you saw God at work, etc.)*

4. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Index cards (one per kid), markers, Bibles

What You Do:

- **Give** kids an index card and markers.
- **Instruct** kids to find a verse that reminds them to trust God. They can select a verse from the Bible they find, from the list below, or choose one they like and already have memorized:
 - Joshua 1:9
 - Psalm 9:10
 - Psalm 13:5
 - Psalm 20:7
 - Proverbs 3:5-6
 - Romans 15:13
 - Revelation 21:5
- **Ask** kids to write the verse on the index card.
- **Encourage** kids to memorize their verse this week and to recite the verse especially in times when they need to remember to trust God.
- **Select** one of the verses and use it as a model to close in prayer.
- For Philippians 1:6, a sample prayer could be:
 - “God, we are confident that You are always with us. You have a specific plan for each of these kids, God, and I am excited to see You work through their lives as they grow closer to You and trust You. God, there are times when it doesn’t feel like You are with us, but we know that regardless of what we feel, You promise You will never leave us. This week help us to be confident and to live like we believe You can be trusted. Amen.”