

City LG - November 23-24, 2019

Bible Story: The Lion Sleeps Tonight (Daniel Is Thrown Into a Den of Lions) • *Daniel 6*

Bottom Line: Honor God by giving Him credit.

Memory Verse: *Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves.* Romans 12:10 (NIV)

CG: Countdown Video

WORSHIP: “Zeal” and “Not the Same”

Worship Leader prays...

WELCOME:

Supplies Needed: 50 Plastic Cups (per Small Group)

“Hi, everyone! Welcome to the City! My name is [your name], and I’m so glad you’re here today! We have a lot of fun around here, so I know you’ll be glad you came. We’ve spent this whole month here in the Hall of Fame talking about honor.

“Honor is letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.

CG: Theme Slide

“You know who’s valuable? You are! You know who else is valuable? The person on your left and the person on your right. EVERYONE is valuable. Everyone is a very important person—a VIP. Our job is to treat everyone we see with honor, and show them that they matter.

“For today’s game, we’re using these awesome cups.

Hold up one of the plastic cups.

Today, we’re stacking them up! It’s the Trophy Tower Challenge!

CG: “Trophy Tower Challenge” Slide

Note: This game will be the most fun if you can have all groups play simultaneously.

“Each group has a stack of ‘trophies’ (cups). When I say, ‘Go,’ you’ll have 60 seconds to work together and build the tallest tower of trophies you can. When time is up, the group with the highest tower wins! Are you ready? Let’s count it down—three, two, one, go!

Move around the room, commenting on the groups’ tower-building progress. When time is up, determine which group’s tower is highest.

“Wow! I had no idea you all were such incredible engineers! Those were some really amazing towers. (To the winning group) [Leader’s name]’s group, way to go!”

Begin Lesson...

“OK everyone! So far this month, we’ve been looking at the life of King David. Let’s fast-forward a bit in God’s Story (*hold up Bible*) to the time AFTER David was king. Israel was ruled by many kings following King David.

Some of those kings listened to God, but many did not. Over and over, God's people kept forgetting about the one true God and started to worship other gods instead.

"Jehoiakim was a king who unfortunately ignored God's laws. He led the people in the wrong direction. So God allowed Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, to invade Jerusalem and take God's people back to his home to be prisoners. One of these prisoners was a man named Daniel.

"Daniel was really wise because he listened to God. Soon, he had a new position as one of the king's advisors. Daniel served the king for many years. And when Babylon was conquered, Daniel was chosen to serve the new ruler, King Darius, as well."

"King Darius appointed 120 royal rulers who were in charge of the country. He also set up three big bosses who were in charge of those 120 OTHER rulers. One of those three big bosses was Daniel. And then there were the other two bosses. Daniel did so well in his job that King Darius put him in charge over everyone! How do you think that made the other two bosses feel? (Pause for response.) Right. They were jealous.

"These two guys tried to find something that Daniel was doing wrong so they could get him in trouble. They couldn't find anything . . . but they DID know that Daniel followed God. So they convinced the king to make a law. It said that for 30 days, no one could pray to any god except the king. If anyone didn't obey this law, they'd be thrown into a den of hungry lions!"

"But Daniel wasn't afraid. He honored God. He did everything just as he had done before—like praying to God. Let's find out what happens next in this week's Bible Story video!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:30)

"God gave Daniel success the entire time King Darius was in charge. And Daniel continued to honor God.

"Daniel's story shows us something important.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

"We should **[Bottom Line]** honor God by giving Him credit.

"Daniel never stopped praying to God and trusting Him, even when things got scary. And he never tried to take credit for the good things that happened, either. He was wise to always give credit to God all along the way.

"We can do the same thing Daniel did. We can **[Bottom Line]** honor God by giving Him credit—and thanking Him for all He's doing in our lives. In fact, let's pray and thank Him right now."

Pray: "Dear God, thank You for taking care of Daniel when he was in the lions' den. We can see how he was brave enough to trust You and honor You, even when he was in a really scary situation. And he gave You credit for rescuing him, so that everyone could see how powerful You are. Please help us to do the same thing. Help us remember to honor You by giving You credit. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen."

"We can do the same thing Daniel did. We can give God credit—by talking about what He's done in our lives and what He's doing right now. We can thank Him for all the good gifts He gives us every day. Jesus said that we are the light of the world. That means we were made to do good things so we can bring glory to God—so that OTHER people can see how good God is because they can see what He's doing in us.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

"So let's **[Bottom Line]** honor God by giving Him credit.

"I bet all of us can think of some great things God is doing in our lives. He's with us in the good times, when everything seems to be going according to plan, and He's with us even when times are tough, like they were for Daniel. He's ALWAYS with us through it all! Let's worship God with our offering now before we head to Small Groups!"

CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 3:00)

Dismiss kids to their small groups.