

CITY LG – November 15th- 16th, 2025

Bible Story: Daniel and the Lions' Den • *Daniel 6*

Bottom Line: God is always with you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.* Isaiah 40:31 (NirV)

LG Supplies: 1 safari hat

WORSHIP

Chasing me

We are Royals

SLIDE: Theme

Hello, everyone! I'm so glad that you're here today! All month long, we're digging down to Bedrock: Building confidence in God, block by block. Because when you face tough situations, it's so important to remember that God is with you—whether you're walking past a barking dog, or like our main character in today's story ... facing a bunch of roaring lions! Before we get started, I've got a game for us to play. And I'm going to need six volunteers.

Choose six volunteers and bring them up.

Very good. Now, I need one of you to be our zookeeper.

Choose one kid and give them a safari hat to wear.

The rest of you get to be ... our lions!

Our game is called Sleeping Lions! So when I say: 'go to sleep,' all of you lions find a spot on the stage and lie down to sleep—anywhere you want. It's going to be our zookeeper's job to wake you up! But lions, you want to stay asleep. In fact, if you move even a tiny bit, or laugh or say anything, then you're out. Zookeeper, you can do anything to wake our sleeping lions ... except touch them! You can say something funny, or do silly things, or whatever you can imagine. You've got two minutes to wake the lions. I'll set my timer here for two minutes. Ready? Lions, go to sleep!

SFX: *"The Lion Sleeps Tonight" by The Tokens (play softly)*

Start your timer. Encourage the zookeeper to try different techniques to make the lions laugh or move. Make sure to catch any lions who laugh or move. If time allows, you can play multiple rounds. When the game is over, instruct the lions to wake up.

Wow. You were an excellent zookeeper. And the rest of you were fantastic lions. Now that you're awake, let's everyone give a giant roar. Ready? RRRRROOOOOOAAAAAR!

Let's check out our memory verse for this month. God will give us the strength to do anything He asks us to do and that's what our Memory Verse says. It's Isaiah 40:31! Let me read it out loud, and then you can repeat after me!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Before we dive into today's story, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We are going to learn about the key stories in the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why? Well, one of the reasons God gave us the Bible is so we can know Him! He wants us to be His friends. So as we read key stories from the Bible this year, hopefully we'll learn about Him! We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible! *(Gesture to slide.)*

SLIDE: God's Big Story

Each week, we'll look at a story from God's Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we've been in the Bible as we journey along. *(Gesture to timeline.)*

Let me bring you up to speed on where we've been in God's Big Story so far! So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made everything! He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore! It was so sad.

And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it. But God didn't want to leave things that way! So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Many years later, Abraham's great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn't know about Joseph. He saw how many of God's people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

God's people cried out to God for help. He answered! God brought His people out of Egypt into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land!

After some time living in the Promised Land, God's people wanted a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, the nation of God's people split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

During this time, there were prophets in both kingdoms who spoke and taught on God's behalf. God would guide and direct the prophets to tell others about Him and His heart.

Many of the prophets delivered the same message from God: 'Come back to Me!' But many of the kings didn't listen. They turned their hearts away from God, and as a result, the northern kingdom of Israel was totally destroyed and never heard from again. The southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive by other nations. God's people were taken from the Promised Land! It was sad, but God was preserving a remnant mostly from the nation of Judah. He was going to keep His promise.

And that's where we are in God's Big Story. Today, we're reading an exciting story from the book of Daniel. Let's check it out.

VIDEO: Bible Story 10:20

Daniel was confident that God was always with him. And we can be confident of that too!

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

God is always with you.

Throughout his life, Daniel made a habit of talking with God every day. Three times a day, he would stop what he was doing and pray. He would talk to his Friend. So when he faced being thrown to the lions, he had confidence that God was with him, just like God had been with him every other day.

When you make a habit of talking with God every day, it's easier to remember that God is with you no matter what you face. When you're worried about a big test, God is with you. When you've got the flu for a whole week, God is with you. When a kid is mean to you at recess, God is always with you!

Now, you may not always *feel* like God is with you, and that's totally normal. It helps to look back at the way that God has helped you through other difficult times. You can also read stories in the Bible about the way that God was with people like Abraham and Moses and David and Daniel. And how Jesus promised His followers He would always be with them.

And don't forget, when you choose to follow Jesus, Jesus' very Spirit came to live inside you. The Holy Spirit gives us the same kind of confidence that Daniel had. Not confidence in ourselves, but confidence in God! The strongest One is with you—He's in you! You face everything with Him. So God is always with you! That's the kind of confidence that helped Daniel face the lions, and it's the same confidence God offers to you!

Let's pray and ask God to help us learn to live in the truth that He is always with us!

Dear God, thank You so much for Daniel's story and the reminder of how important it is to make a habit of talking with You. Thank You that You are always with us in every single thing we face. Teach us to live with You as our closest Friend. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

In The City, we want to have fun but also be the hands and feet of Jesus by helping others who are in need. For the rest of 2025 we are going to help kids and adults who live right near us! We are collecting our offering for Shady Oaks Camp for People with Disabilities in Homer Glen, IL. If you were at Summer Jam, you heard a lot about Shady Oaks. And Scott, the director of Shady Oaks Camp wants you all to hear how thankful he is for our help! Let's check it out.

VIDEO: Scott

Go home and see what you can do to earn money to help Shady Oaks Camp!

SLIDE: Theme