

# Large Group Leader Guide

## Today's Suggested Schedule

### Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### Small Group (10 minutes)

#### Social: Providing time for fun interaction

##### 1. Opening Activity

### Large Group (30 minutes)

#### Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

#### Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

### Small Group (15 minutes)

#### Groups: Creating a safe place to connect 1. Bible Story

### Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

→ Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

→ [Devotionals for Kids](#)

→ Parent Cue App and [ParentCue.org](#)

THIS MONTH



### Today's Bible Story

## Daniel and the Lions' Den

Daniel 6

### Bottom Line

**God is always with you.**

### 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)



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

5 MINUTES

# Opener

10 MINUTES

# Worship

20 MINUTES

# Story

## ① Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.  
SLIDE → Theme  
Optional Video → Theme Loop

→ Host enters.

Optional Video → Countdown  
Optional Video → Theme Intro  
Optional Video → Theme Loop

HOST: “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 on stage.

“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!

→ Optional: Give the kids lion-ear headbands to wear.

“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!

Optional SFX → “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” by The Tokens (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? RRRRROOOOOOOOAAAAR!

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

“Wow! I definitely wouldn’t want to meet up with a bunch of you in the jungle!”

“Now let’s put all of that great energy into singing songs to show God how much we love Him! On your feet, everyone!”

### ② Worship

→ Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: “That opening game was so fun! You guys are full of energy — and that’s perfect, because now it’s time to use that same excitement to worship God. He’s the One who gives us strength and helps us stand strong, no matter what we face.”

This first song reminds us that following Jesus fills our hearts with joy. It’s a Happy Day when we remember what He’s done for us. So come on — sing it loud and celebrate with all you’ve got!

Video → Happy Day - Orange Kids

WORSHIP LEADER: “That was awesome! I love seeing how much joy you bring to worship.”

SLIDE → Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: “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

“Let’s say it together!”

WORSHIP LEADER: “Those who trust in the LORD”

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: “Those who trust in the LORD”

WORSHIP LEADER: “will receive new strength.”

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: “will receive new strength.”

WORSHIP LEADER: “They will fly as high as eagles.”

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: “They will fly as high as eagles.”

WORSHIP LEADER: “They will run and not get tired.”

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: “They will run and not get tired.”

WORSHIP LEADER: “They will walk and not grow weak.”

5 MINUTES

# Opener

10 MINUTES

# Worship

20 MINUTES

# Story

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "They will walk and not grow weak."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Isaiah 40:31!"

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "Isaiah 40:31!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Let's take a deep breath, think about how good God is, and sing this next song together.."

Video → Ask, Seek, Knock - Hillsong Kids

WORSHIP LEADER: "God, thank You for always being with us — just like You were with Daniel. Thank You for listening when we pray and helping us trust You no matter what's going on. We love You so much. Amen."

"Great job, everyone! God loves us so much that He will give us His strength to do anything He asks us to do! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today!"

## ③ Bible Story

SLIDE -> Theme Background

→ Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit

### INTRODUCTION

STORYTELLER: "Hey, friends, today we're doing something so exciting! We're going to dive into the story of a person in the Bible about whom not a single bad thing is written! His name is Daniel!"

"But before we dive into Daniel'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!"

### GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story together!  
(GESTURE TO SLIDE.)"

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

SLIDE -&gt; 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."

5 MINUTES

# Opener

10 MINUTES

# Worship

20 MINUTES

# Story

## SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Today, we’re reading an exciting story from the book of Daniel.

“Sadly, when God’s people were conquered by the Babylonians, many were taken captive and brought to Babylon. They left the Promised Land!

“One of these people captured was a young man named Daniel. Since Daniel and his friends were smart and wise, the king of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar, wanted them to work for him! King Nebuchadnezzar tried to make Daniel and his friends become like the Babylonians and worship false gods. But these young men refused. God gave them special wisdom and understanding—and the king was so impressed that he made them his advisors.

“Over the years, other kings came to power. But no matter who was in charge, Daniel continued to honor God. He even prayed to God three times every day.

“Today’s story takes place when Daniel was older. Daniel had lived in a foreign land for years and years and years. But Daniel always followed God.

“As we tell our story today, I’m going to need the help of another zookeeper and the help of everybody here!

- Select a volunteer who did not participate before and give them the safari hat. Bring them over to the table that has the red, pushable button.

“Zookeeper, you can stand right over here. Any time I say the word ‘lion,’ I need you to press the red button.

“Everybody else? When our zookeeper presses the red button, I need you to give your most ferocious lion roar. Let’s practice. (CLEAR THROAT)

“LION!

- Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars!

“Well done! You guys have got it! Let’s get back to our story.

## DANIEL PROMOTED

STORYTELLER: “A new empire conquered the Babylonian empire, and a king named Darius came to power. King Darius placed Daniel and two other men in charge of all the advisors in the kingdom! When he saw what an incredible job Daniel did, Darius planned to place Daniel in charge of everyone! The other advisors were jealous.

- Open the Bible to Daniel 6:5 (NIRV) and read.

Finally these men said, “We want to bring charges against this man Daniel. But it’s almost impossible for us to come up with a reason to do it. If we find a reason, it will have to be in connection with the law of his God.”

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

“These men had been watching Daniel, and they knew that he was faithful to God! So they came up with a terrible plan and went to the king.

→ Open the Bible to Daniel 6:6b-7 (NIRV) and read.

They said, “King Darius, may you live forever! All the royal leaders, high officials, royal rulers, advisers, and governors want to make a suggestion. We’ve agreed that you should give an order. And you should make sure it’s obeyed. Your Majesty, here is the command you should make your people obey for the next 30 days. Don’t let any of your people pray to any god or human being except to you. If they do, throw them into the lions’ den.”

→ Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.

“Yikes. Scary!

### THE TERRIBLE ORDER

STORYTELLER: “This was a horrible plan. But King Darius liked the idea that everyone should pray to him like he was a god. So King Darius put the order in writing and signed it! Now you’ve got to understand ... at this time in Persia, once an order was made, NO ONE could change it. Not even the king.

“So if anyone dared to pray to the one true God, they must be thrown in a den with lions.

→ Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars!

“This was awful. But do you think that Daniel was stopped from talking to God by the thought of scary lions?

→ Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.

“No way! Daniel went right away and prayed to God just as he always did. Daniel knew that God was with him, no matter what happened.

“Sure enough, the other advisors were quick to go tattle to the king.

→ Open the Bible to Daniel 6:12b (NIRV) and read.

“Your Majesty, didn’t you sign an official order? It said that for the next 30 days your people could pray only to you. They could not pray to anyone else, whether god or human being. If they did, they would be thrown into the lions’ den.”

→ Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.

“The king said that the order had to be obeyed.

→ Open the Bible to Daniel 6:13 (NIRV) and read.

Then they spoke to the king again. They said, “Daniel is one of the prisoners from Judah. He doesn’t pay any attention to you, Your Majesty. He doesn’t obey the order you put in writing. He still prays to his God three times a day.”

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

“Darius was trapped. He didn’t want Daniel to be thrown to the lions!

→ Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.

### DANIEL IN THE LIONS’ DEN

STORYTELLER: “But the king couldn’t change the order.

→ Open the Bible to Daniel 6:16 (NIRV) and read.

So the king gave the order. Daniel was brought out and thrown into the lions’ den.

→ Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.

“The king said to him:

→ Open the Bible to Daniel 6:16 (NIRV) and read.

“You always serve your God faithfully. So may he save you!”

“Then Daniel was thrown into the dark den filled with lions!

→ Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.

“All night, the king paced his room, unable to sleep. Okay, audience, now I need you to change the sound you make because God did something amazing! This time, when our zookeeper presses the red button, I want you to try to make a sound that cats make when they’re happy. Make a purring sound! You’ll see why in a second! Now back to our story!

“As soon as the sun rose, the king hurried to the den and called out—

→ Open the Bible to Daniel 6:20b (NIRV) and read.

“Daniel! You serve the living God. You always serve him faithfully. So has he been able to save you from the lions?”

Volunteer presses button. Audience makes cat/lion purrs.

→ Open the Bible to Daniel 6:21-22 (NIRV) and read.

Daniel answered, “Your Majesty, may you live forever! My God sent his angel. And his angel shut the mouths of the lions.”

Volunteer presses button. Audience makes cat/lion purrs.

“They haven’t hurt me at all. That’s because I haven’t done anything wrong in God’s sight. I’ve never done anything wrong to you either, Your Majesty.”

“The king was so happy! He ordered the people who worked for him to lift Daniel out of the lions’ den.

→ Volunteer presses button. Audience makes cat/lion purrs.

“And he sent a new decree to all the people of the kingdom.

→ Open the Bible to Daniel 6:26a (NIRV) and read.

“I order people in every part of my kingdom to respect and honor Daniel’s God.”

5 MINUTES

## Opener

10 MINUTES

## Worship

20 MINUTES

## Story

### WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Daniel continued to serve Darius and found favor with the king. All his life, even living in a foreign land, Daniel was faithful to spend time with God and pray daily. He was so confident of God’s presence with him that he could continue to honor God, even when he knew what awaited him when he did—a lions’ den. One more time, this time let’s give your loudest lion roars!

→ Volunteer presses button. Audience makes lion roars.

“Great job, [VOLUNTEER’S NAME]! Let’s all give our excellent zookeeper a round of applause. And you guys in the audience did a great job too!

→ Send the volunteer back to their seat.

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

SLIDE → Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] “God is always with you. Say that with me.”

→ Host enters and joins in.

STORYTELLER, HOST, and KIDS: [BOTTOM LINE] “God is always with you.”

### GOD’S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: “Let’s take a look at the progress we made in God’s Big Story this week!

SLIDE -> God’s Big Story

“This week, we’re up here in this picture of Daniel and the lions’ den. That’s where we are in God’s Big Story! (GESTURE TO IMAGE OF DANIEL.)

“This week we talked about Daniel! Sadly, Daniel was part of the group of people that was captured from the southern kingdom of Judah and taken to a foreign land. But even though God’s people were taken from the Promised Land, God didn’t give up on His promise! Because God would take care of this remnant. Many, many years later, God would make sure some of the people got to come back home to the Promised Land. And then many, many years after that, from this tiny remnant, God would send Jesus! And Jesus was the Savior who would rescue us all!

“Let’s put the next image on our timeline!

SLIDE -> Week 3 Timeline Image

→ If you’re making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today’s timeline image on the clothesline.

5 MINUTES

# Opener

10 MINUTES

# Worship

20 MINUTES

# Story

“This week we talked about Daniel!”

### WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: 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.

“We can have the confidence that God is always with us too! 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!”

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## ③ Prayer

STORYTELLER or HOST: “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.”

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.  
AUDIO -> Play high-energy music as the kids exit.  
SLIDE -> Theme  
Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop