

WEEK 4 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I'm not afraid —
God is with me!

BIBLE

Daniel in the Lions' Den:
Daniel 6

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Sing and Roar!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "I'm Trusting You" (Lifetree Kids)
 - "Not Afraid" (Rend Co. Kids)
 - "With Me Every Day" (Yancy)
 - "Through It All" (Lifetree Kids)
 - "What You're Made For" (Lifeway Music)

ACTIVITY | Parachute Den

- Welcome back to *Hear Me Roar* here at the Babylon Zoo, friends! Zookeeper [First Name] is so happy to see you today! We're going to have a roaring good time!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Lay out a parachute on the floor in an open area. Ask the kids to stand around the parachute. Explain that as a group, you'll lift the parachute and then call out a simple command. Those who fit the command's description should go under the parachute.
- Being under the parachute feels like being in a den.
- Today's story takes place in a lions' den!

ACTIVITY | Hungry, Hungry Lions

- As a zookeeper, it's my job to make sure that all of the animals are well-fed.
- For this game, you'll pretend to be very hungry lions.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Toss out a variety of multicolored pom-poms in the center of the parachute. Ask the children to kneel around the outside of the parachute. Explain that you'll call out a color and then they should crawl to collect that color of pom-poms and then return to their spot. Repeat play with other colors.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Help the children find the colors on the parachute instead of using pom-poms. Alternatively, use small stuffed animal lions borrowed from families or gathered from second-hand stores.

- Today, we'll hear a story about very hungry lions!

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Daniel 6 (Daniel in the Lions' Den)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the story of Daniel 6 as though you're guiding kids through an exhibit at the Babylon Zoo, with the help of your [hand puppet friend Livy the Lion](#) (this puppet not sold in pack with animals from previous weeks). Remain in the zookeeper character.
- It's been a noisy day here at the Babylon Zoo! Some of the loudest animals are lions.
 - **What sound does a lion make?**
 - **Do you think you can roar as loud as a lion?** [Let kids roar loudly.]
 - That was pretty loud!
- [Lion puppet appears and speaks] Whoa! You all are as loud as all of the lions here at Babylon Zoo!
 - Oh hi, Livy! Friends, this is Livy the Lion. She lives here at the zoo.
- [Livy talking] Being a lion is the best! Lions are big and strong and loud.
- But sometimes people are afraid of us — which reminds me of a story about lions in the Bible.
 - [Read Daniel 6 from a preschool Bible or a preschool-friendly translation.]
- You see, those people who were really close to the king made up a rule just to get Daniel in trouble. They didn't like Daniel because they knew how much the king liked him.
 - And since Daniel never did anything wrong, they knew the only way to bring him down would have to be about God.
 - Because Daniel loved God more than anyone, even the king.
- But you know what? Daniel never stopped praying to God, even when he could get in trouble. And boy, did he get in trouble.
 - The king was so sad but according to the new rule, Daniel had to be thrown into the place with all the hungry lions.
 - But guess what? God closed the mouths of the lions in the den and kept Daniel safe.
- Daniel didn't have to be afraid because God was with him — just like God is with us too.

BIG IDEA | I'm not afraid — God is with me!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** On a slip of paper, write today's Big Idea and place the paper in an envelope. Keep the envelope in a place that's easy for today's hand puppet to pick up when the time comes to reveal the Big Idea.
- Daniel never stopped praying to God, even when it meant that he could get in trouble.
- We don't have to be afraid because God is always with us! That's our Big Idea for today.
- Livy, do you have our envelope?
- [Have the kids do a drumroll on their legs. Look over at Livy, who's holding an envelope in her mouth.]
- Thank you, Livy!
- [Open the envelope and read the Big Idea aloud.] **I'm not afraid — God is with me!**
- Stand up and let's say this together:
 - **I'm not afraid —** (bring arms up like an X and then wave them down)
 - **God** (point up)
 - **is with me!** (use thumbs to point to self)

VIDEO | Hear Me Roar, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Who Woke the Lion?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the song, "[The Lion Sleeps Tonight](#)" while one kid closes their eyes and pretends to be a sleeping lion. (For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)) Choose another child to gently tap the sleeping "lion", who will then guess who tapped them. Allow three guesses before revealing who woke them up. The tapper then becomes the "lion" and another tapper is chosen. Continue play as time allows.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have all of the children lay on the floor and pretend to sleep while the music plays. Pause the song and when the music stops, encourage the children to wake up and roar. Repeat as time and interest allows.

- Daniel was in the lions' den for a whole night and God kept him safe.
- **I'm not afraid — God is with me!**

PRAYER

- Dear God, when we're afraid, help us to know you are with us. Help us to be strong like a lion. Amen.

SHARING TIME

ACTIVITY | Animal Crackers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the children animal crackers to enjoy. Play a song like "I Will Not Be Afraid" (Lifetree Kids) while kids eat. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- **What animals do you see?**
- **What's your favorite animal?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- Sometimes when we're afraid, we like to cuddle with something soft and fuzzy.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Start play by handing a stuffed lion to a child. Have them pass the lion around the circle while the group says today's Big Idea (**I'm not afraid — God is with me!**). The child holding the lion after the last word of the Big Idea will answer a question. Resume play until all questions are asked.
- **What rule did the king make?**
- **How did Daniel break the rule?**
- **What kind of animal was in the den with Daniel?**
- **Who kept Daniel safe?**
- **What can you pray about?**

ACTIVITY | Mane Prayers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Distribute the activity pages and help children read the different things or people they can pray for. Then assist each child in filling in the blank space on their page and allow them to color the page. Be sure to write their names on their papers.
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide each child with a lion face activity page, [like this](#). Help them use glue sticks to adhere the face to the center of a 9-inch paper plate. Allow them to add hair to the mane by gluing on squares of yellow and orange tissue paper. Write each child's name on their paper.

- In today's Bible story, Daniel disobeyed the king's law by praying to God.
- We can pray to God for many different things.
- God wants us to pray to him when we're happy or sad or afraid.
- **I'm not afraid – God is with me!**

MEMORY VERSE | Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

- **"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knows those who trust in him."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Lead the children in saying the verse together. Then have them whisper it. End by having them recite it really, really loud and add a mighty roar!*

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.*

ACTIVITY | Animal Shapes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set out various colors of play dough and animal-shaped cookie cutters. Have each child make animal shapes either by using a cookie cutter or by shaping it with their hands.*

ACTIVITY | Lions' Den

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Provide the children with a dark colored blanket so they can create a lions' den. Help them place the blanket over three sides of a table. Allow them to crawl in and out of it.*