

Shaped By the Story Curriculum

This 4-week curriculum is tailored for small groups to dive deeper into the biblical stories, character traits, and moral lessons from the sermon series. Each session includes discussion questions, practical applications, and prayer prompts to foster spiritual growth, community, and accountability. The curriculum is structured to encourage engagement, reflection, and real-life application of the lessons.

Session 1: Noah's Ark – Faithfulness in a Corrupt World

Scripture: Genesis 6:5–22; 7:1–24

Character Trait: Faithfulness

Moral Lesson: Faithfulness to God sets us apart in a world that rejects Him.

Icebreaker (10 min)

Share about a time you felt “different” because of your faith. How did you handle it?

Scripture Reading (5 min)

Read Genesis 6:5–14 and 7:1–5. Discuss how Noah's world compares to today's culture.

Discussion Questions (30–40 min)

1. What does Noah's obedience to build the ark, despite no visible rain, teach us about faithfulness?
2. How do you think Noah felt being the only righteous person in a corrupt world? How can we stay faithful when we feel alone?
3. Hebrews 11:7 says Noah's faith condemned the world. How does faithfulness to God challenge those around us?
4. What are practical ways to remain faithful to God in your workplace, school, or community?

Practical Challenge (5 min)

Choose one way to demonstrate faithfulness this week (e.g., keeping a commitment, sharing your faith, or standing up for what's right). Share your goal with the group.

Prayer Time (10 min)

- Pray for courage to stay faithful in a world that often opposes God's values.
- Ask God to help you trust His plan, even when it's hard to see.
- Pray for group members by name, asking for strength in their specific challenges.

Session 2: Joseph's Integrity – Doing Right Under Pressure

Scripture: Genesis 39:1–23

Character Trait: Integrity

Moral Lesson: Integrity means doing what is right, even when it costs us.

Icebreaker (10 min)

Share about a time you faced pressure to compromise your values. What happened, and what did you learn?

Scripture Reading (5 min)

Read Genesis 39:6–12 and 20–23. Highlight Joseph's response to temptation and God's presence with him.

Discussion Questions (30–40 min)

1. What motivated Joseph to resist Potiphar's wife, even at great personal cost?
2. How does Genesis 39:21 ("The Lord was with Joseph") encourage us to maintain integrity in tough situations?
3. What are some subtle ways we're tempted to compromise integrity today (e.g., at work, online, or in relationships)?
4. How can we build habits of integrity in small, everyday decisions?

Practical Challenge (5 min)

Commit to one act of integrity this week (e.g., being honest in a tough situation, keeping a promise). Share your plan with the group.

Prayer Time (10 min)

- Pray for strength to act with integrity, even when it's costly.
- Ask God to show you areas where your integrity needs growth.
- Pray for group members facing specific pressures.

Session 3: David and Goliath – Courage Through Faith

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:1–50

Character Trait: Courage

Moral Lesson: Courage rooted in faith empowers us to face impossible odds.

Icebreaker (10 min)

What's the scariest thing you've ever faced? How did faith (or lack of it) play a role?

Scripture Reading (5 min)

Read 1 Samuel 17:32–47. Discuss David's confidence in God versus the fear of others.

Discussion Questions (30–40 min)

1. What gave David the courage to face Goliath when others were afraid?
2. How does trusting in God's power change the way we approach challenges?
3. What "giants" (e.g., fear, injustice, or doubt) are you facing in your life right now?
4. How can we cultivate courage through faith in our daily lives?

Practical Challenge (5 min)

Identify one "giant" you need to confront (e.g., speaking truth, addressing a conflict). Take one practical step this week and share it with the group.

Prayer Time (10 min)

- Pray for courage to face challenges with faith in God.
- Ask God to reveal the "giants" in your life and give you strength.
- Pray for each group member's specific challenge.

Session 4: Daniel in the Lions' Den – Conviction and Commitment

Scripture: Daniel 6:1–28

Character Trait: Conviction

Moral Lesson: Standing firm in our convictions honors God and inspires others.

Icebreaker (10 min)

Have you ever faced a situation where your faith was tested? How did you respond?

Scripture Reading (5 min)

Read Daniel 6:10–16 and 21–23. Highlight Daniel's commitment to prayer despite the decree.

Discussion Questions (30–40 min)

1. Why did Daniel continue praying, knowing it could cost his life? What does this teach us about conviction?
2. How did Daniel's convictions influence those around him (e.g., Darius, the other officials)?
3. What are some convictions you hold as a Christian? How do you stay committed to them under pressure?
4. How can we encourage each other to stand firm in our faith?

Practical Challenge (5 min)

Choose one spiritual discipline (e.g., prayer, Bible reading) to practice consistently this week to strengthen your convictions. Share your commitment with the group.

Prayer Time (10 min)

- Pray for unwavering commitment to God's truth.
- Ask God to strengthen your convictions in challenging moments.
- Pray for group members by name for their specific disciplines.