

At Home Activities

July

Today's Bible Story: Just Like Fire (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) • *Daniel 3*

Today's Bottom Line: Trust that God is always with you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

Monthly Life App: Confidence—Learning to see yourself the way God sees you

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Go through these activities for any weekend of July Sunday School your child misses due to sports, vacation, illness, etc.

1. My Name

What You Need: paper, writing utensils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and a writing utensil.
- Instruct the kids to write their names down the left side of the page.
- Encourage the kids to create an acronym of their names by thinking of one word to describe themselves for each letter.
- Help them as needed.
- For example: Sam
 - S miley
 - A dventurous
 - M arshmallow eater

2. Fire vs. Wind vs. Water

What You Do:

- Create simple (but obviously different) gestures to represent each of the words below:
 - FIRE
 - WIND
 - WATER
- Practice the gestures until you all can do them quickly.
- Invite two kids to stand back-to-back, about several feet apart.
- Explain that, at your signal, they should turn around, face the other kid, and immediately do one of the motions.
- Use the following chart to determine the winner:
 - Fire defeats Wind
 - Wind defeats Water
 - Water defeats Fire
- Ask the winners of the round to share their answer to one of the questions below.
 - When FIRE wins ask: When do you *really* want to know that God is with you?
 - When WIND wins ask: Even though you can't see God, how can you know He's always with you?
 - When WATER wins ask: Why does it help you to know that God is always with you?

3. “Notes” on our time

What You Need: Dice, Paper, pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a pencil and a paper.
- Instruct kids to write the numbers 1-6 down the left side of their paper
- Next to each number have them write (or draw a picture of) something they do during the day that takes up time.
 - They don't need to include hours that they sleep.
 - Examples might be homework, after-school activities, sports, reading, practicing an instrument, school, hanging out with friends, watching TV, playing video games, eating, etc.
- Ask kids to write how much time they give to each of the areas they labeled on the left.
- Take turns rolling the die.
- Based on the number rolled, ask kids to discuss (together as a group) their answers to the following questions. (If they roll a 3, they will discuss the third thing they wrote/drew. If they roll a six, they will discuss the sixth line, etc.)
 - How might this activity potentially distract you from God or make it hard to stay focused on Him?
 - How can you keep your focus on God during this activity?
- Continue until you've discussed a variety of activities.

4. Bible Story Expressions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Tell kids you will be reading a summary of the Bible story to them
- After each break in story, tell them you'd like them to act out what you just read.
- They can use facial expressions or quietly use their whole body to act out what is going on. (There are 10, so continue on the next page)
 1. Matthew 14:22 *The disciples got into a boat and sailed across the water.*
 2. Matthew 14:23 *Jesus went away to pray.*
 3. Matthew 14:24 *Strong winds and waves began to toss the boat up and down.*
 4. Matthew 14:25 *The disciples thought a ghost was walking toward them on the water.*
 5. Matthew 14:26 *The disciples were frightened!*
 6. Matthew 14:27 *Jesus told the disciples to not be afraid.*
 7. Matthew 14:28-29 *Peter stepped out of the boat and started walking toward Jesus.*
 8. Matthew 14:30 *The wind and waves started to scare Peter and he began to sink.*
 9. Matthew 14:31 *Jesus reached out to Peter and pulled him up.*
 10. Matthew 14:32-33 *The wind and the waves were quiet.*
- Explore the story through discussion.
 - What amazes you most about this story?
 - Peter didn't seem to be afraid at first when he stepped out of the boat and onto the water, so what made him suddenly lose it and begin to sink?
 - What are some ways you can relate to Peter or the other disciples in this story?
- Use the following additional activity if time allows to lead into a deeper discussion about the things that distract us from focusing on Jesus.

- Ask one kid to turn their back to the group.
- Point to another kid to indicate that they will be using their kazoo to play “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” while the remaining kids make as much kazoo noise as they can.
- Allow the kid whose back is turned to listen for five to ten seconds then guess who is playing the song.
- Switch roles and play several times.
- Ask:
 - What are some of the “noises” in our life that pull our focus off of Jesus and onto things that aren’t as important as a relationship with Him?
 - When you're trying to follow Jesus, what are some things that pull you away or distract you from following him? What can you do when that happens?
 - Name some ways to stay focused on Jesus.
- Encourage kids to choose one of the ideas that was shared to focus on this week.

5. True or False

What You Need: Masking tape, long string, line of socks

What You Do:

- Make a line of some sort in your house.
- Have your child(ren) stand on the line.
- Designate one side they can jump to as “True” and the other as “False”
- Explain that you’ll read them a True or False statement
- When they think they know the answer, they need to jump to the side they believe is right
- After each question, they need to return to the starting line

- 1 Nothing can separate us from God’s love. (T)
- 2 God only loves us when we do things He wants us to do. (F)
- 3 Everything God says is true. (T)
- 4 Confidence is seeing yourself the way others see you. (F)
- 5 God stops loving us when we do something bad. (F)
- 6 We should trust that God is always with us. (T)
- 7 Some things are just too hard for God. (F)
- 8 When Jesus is with us, we can face anything. (T)
- 9 God only loves people who go to church. (F)
- 10 God loves us even when we’re not sure what we feel about Him. (T)
- 11 God stops loving us when we fail. (F)
- 12 God loves us only when things go the way we expect. (F)
- 13 God stops loving us when we don’t see ourselves the way God sees us. (F)
- 14 God loves us even when we feel worthless. (T)

What You Say:

“What are examples of how God loves us? (*Pause for responses.*) These are good examples! God’s love doesn’t change! God loves you so much that when sin separated us from God, He gave His only Son to bridge that gap. He created a way for you to never be separated from Him again! When you believe in Jesus, you can have a relationship with God that will last forever. I don’t know about you, but that’s something to be excited about! Remember that **[Bottom Line] God loves you no matter what** and nothing can separate you from His love.”

6. Can't Separate It

You Need: Play-Doh®

What You Do:

- Give each kid some Play-Doh
- Have them make a heart to represent God's love for us and to make a smiley face to represent a person.
- Have them squish their Play-Doh shapes together, mixing them together.
- Then challenge them to try and separate their Play-Doh to get back the exact Play-Doh they used making each shape.

What You Say:

"It is impossible to separate the two shapes once they're mixed together. It's even harder for us to be separated from God's love. In fact, it's absolutely, positively, beyond-a-doubt impossible. God promises that absolutely nothing can take His love away from you. **[Bottom Line] Live like you believe what God says is true** by saying thank you to God for His great love.

7. Pray

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather your group for prayer.
- Talk about shadows. Ask them what shadows they see in the room right now.
- Close the group by reading the following and then praying aloud.

What You Say:

"Every time you see your shadow this week, I want you to remember to **[Bottom Line] trust that God is always with you**. You are never alone, even if you FEEL alone. Nothing can separate you from God, and He loves you more than you could ever imagine! Let's pray and thank God for always being with us.

"Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and for the truth that You are always with us. When we feel less than confident this week, help us remember that we are never alone. Remind us in big and small ways that You are right there to help us. We trust You, God. And we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Confidence means learning to see yourself the way God sees you.



DAY 1

Read Isaiah 41:10

This month, we will continue to talk about confidence, seeing yourself the way God sees you. God thinks you're awesome because you are made in His image. **Real confidence comes when we remember that it's not about how you see yourself, it's about how God sees you.**

Grab a piece of paper and trace your right hand. Around your hand, write the words of today's verse, weaving the words of the verse around each finger. Write ISAIAH 41:10 in the center and decorate your hand any way you choose. Cut out your handprint carefully along the outside of the words to include the verse and display somewhere in your room.

DAY 2

Read Philippians 1:6

God is with you. He's with you when you get it right and when you get it wrong. And what's even better, God will finish what He's started. The "good work" this verse talks about is the work of making you more and more like Jesus. We will fail and be forgiven but with every mistake, we learn. And as we learn, we realize the good work God is doing in us to change the world around us.

Write the words "God will finish what He's started" on a strip of paper. Tape the paper to the door frame of your bedroom. Every time you walk out of the door, tap that note and pray the following prayer. **"God, show me what you want me to learn today so I can be more and more like Jesus. I love you. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."**

DAY 3

Read Daniel 3:16-18

Can you imagine what it must have been like for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to stand before King Nebuchadnezzar knowing they would be thrown into a fiery furnace?

Can you imagine speaking these words in the face of something so scary!

Think of the last movie you watched with the main character making a big brave speech right before facing something tough. Have you ever noticed how the music playing underneath the “speech” adds to the drama? The musical score can completely change the emotions we feel as we watch the action on the screen.

With an adult’s help, find “The Avengers” or “Star Wars: A New Hope” theme song. Play the movie music as you read Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego’s words to the king. Use your most dramatic voice and think about the confidence these men had that God was with them.

DAY 4

Read Matthew 28:18-20

When Jesus came to earth, He had a very specific mission. Jesus came to make a way for everyone to have a relationship with God. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to prove that nothing, not even death, could separate us from God. After Jesus finished that work on earth, it was time for Him to return to heaven. But before He left, Jesus made a promise to be with us. It’s a promise He kept, just like every promise He’s ever made. We can put our trust in Him, every day.

Find a wide rubber band or cut out a thin strip of paper and write the letters GIWM. This stands for **“God is with me.”** Put the rubber band or wrap the paper strip around your wrist and wear it all day tomorrow as a reminder that you can have confidence

*Trust that God is
always with you.*

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DAY 1

Read Philippians 4:12-13

Philippians 4:13 reminds us of one big truth, that with Jesus, anything is possible. Nothing is too big or hard for Him. But it's also important to read verse 12. Paul, who wrote these words in a letter to the church in Philippi, was explaining that he had learned how to make it through anything. The key for Paul was to stay focused on Jesus! When we follow Jesus, He will help us face any situation with confidence.

Write your name in the blank below and read the verse again. Remember, this verse doesn't mean you can do anything you want to do. This verse reminds us that we can do anything that God calls us to do. We can do anything that lines up with His will or His plan for us! **And the best way you can know what those "anythings" are is to focus on Jesus.**

"_____ can do all this through him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

DAY 2

Read Isaiah 26:3

If there's anything we've learned this year, it's that unplanned things can happen. In just a few days, because of this thing called Covid 19, our whole world changed. Schools were closed. We started to learn new terms like "social distancing." We started buying masks and took hand washing to a whole new level. Yet through it all, today's verse reminds us that we can still have a deep-down confidence, an assurance that everything will be okay. How? By staying focused on Jesus!

Is there something you're worried about? Something you're facing that you're not quite sure how it will work out? Stop what you're doing right now and write it down in the space below. Ask God to help you stay focused on Jesus and to trust Him with the situation you're worried about. **God hears you when you pray.** He cares about the things you care about. Ask God to help you and He will.

DAY 3

Read Psalm 86:11

One of the best ways to stay connected to God is to spend time with Him. You're doing that right now as you read His word and complete this GodTime. Today's verse is a great one to use as a prayer. What if you started every day with these words, "Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name."

You might be thinking, what is an undivided heart? That's just another way of saying, **"God, do not allow other things to distract me or steal my focus away from you."**

Write this verse on a card and put it in the back of the seat in front of you in the car. Every time you head somewhere this week, repeat these words as a prayer, asking God to help you stay focused on Jesus this week.

DAY 4

Read Matthew 14:30-31

Do you know what happened right before Jesus walked on water? Jesus fed a crowd of over 5,000 people with one small lunch. The disciples passed out basket after basket of food. And they were in the boat when Jesus walked out to meet them.

But when Jesus called out to them, only Peter stepped out of the boat. When he began to sink, Peter didn't ask his friends in the boat to throw out a line. Peter cried out to Jesus saying, "Lord, save me!"

Peter learned in a super dramatic way that we have to keep our focus on Jesus.

Grab a large bowl and fill it with water. Set a timer for one minute and run to gather as many small items (that are okay to get wet) as you can before the timer runs out. Write down the name of each item and whether you think the item will sink or float. Then, one at time, place each object in the water to see if your prediction was correct.

Stay focused on Jesus.

Confidence means learning to see yourself the way God sees you.

WEEK
3
2ND-3RD

DAY 1

Read Ephesians 6:13-14

Paul wrote these words while under house arrest in Rome. At the time, he was likely guarded by a Roman soldier in full armor so it makes sense that he would write about putting on “God’s armor” to stand strong! As followers of Jesus, we don’t face an actual enemy army. Our battle is against Satan, the one who wants to turn us away from God. Paul is reminding us of the “armor” we have available so we can face the enemy.

When it comes to confidence, we can stand strong with the belt of truth and breastplate of righteousness! The belt of truth is what we know to be true about God! He loves us and will help us make wise choices.

The breastplate of righteousness is like covering yourself with godliness. We protect ourselves the most when we choose words and actions that honor God. **Loving God and loving others is our best defense against the enemy!**

Create your own set of “armor” this week. Grab a belt and tie it around the back of a chair. Find your favorite hoodie or jacket and zip it up around the back of your chair as the breastplate. Pray today and thank God for giving you what you need to face the enemy.

DAY 2

Read Ephesians 6:15

Paul is reminding us today to cover our feet so we’re ready to share the good news about Jesus. He wants us to be ready to talk about Jesus and what He’s done for us, everywhere we go, with everyone we meet. The enemy doesn’t stand a chance when we choose to stand strong and tell others about Jesus!

Grab a pair of shoes you don’t wear every day and set them on the floor underneath your chair with the hoodie and belt from yesterday. **Thank God for the good news about Jesus and ask Him to give you the courage to share that good news everywhere you go!**

DAY 3

Read Ephesians 6:16

What do you need in a battle when a bunch of flaming arrows start coming your way? A strong shield.

Think about those flaming arrows like untrue thoughts. Have you ever had untrue thought sneak in? Thoughts like: God won't love me if I mess up. I'll never be able to do the right thing. I'm not good enough.

Strong faith is like a shield that protects us when these wrong thoughts creep in. When you remember **God's promises—that He loves you no matter what and that He is with you, always—you can stand strong against the enemy.**

Grab something to use as a shield. It could be a piece of cardboard or a cookie sheet from the kitchen. Prop it up on the seat of the chair in front of your hoodie or jacket.

Review the pieces of armor from the version on the chair. Spend some time thanking God for each piece of armor available to you.

*Use what God has given
you to stand strong.*

DAY 4

Read Ephesians 6:17

Today, we read about the last two pieces of armor as described by Paul.

We start with the helmet of salvation. They protect our head and our brain. Paul wants us to remember that we can trust in and follow Jesus every single day. When the enemy tries to sneak in lies or negative thoughts, we can block them when we remember what Jesus has done for us!

And finally, we need to grab the sword of the Spirit. Soldiers needed a sword to strike down the enemy, to fight back! Our sword is God's word. **As we read and memorize God's word, we'll be able to defeat the enemy.**

Grab your bike helmet or favorite hat and hang it from the back of the chair. Grab your sword (your Bible) and read the entire passage, Ephesians 6:13-17. Touch each piece of "armor" as you read about them. Then, thank God for the reminder that He with you and that He will help you use what you have to stand strong against the enemy this week.

Confidence means learning to see yourself the way God sees you.

DAY 1

Read Romans 8:31-32

Read the words below slowly and let them sink in. Are you ready? Okay, focus on these three important words. **God loves you.**

God loves you, always. How do we know this? Because of Jesus. God sent His only Son, He gave Him up for you. Jesus came to face the worst possible death so you could have life. Jesus rose again to prove that nothing, not even death, could separate us from God's love. You can have confidence in the truth that God loves you no matter what.

Complete the grid below, filling in the numbers in order. Then use that grid to fill in the blanks of the phrase below.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
12								20

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
		32						

" _____
20 17 18 26 15 20 30 17 26 29

32 30 34 19 26 14 12 25 13 16

_____"
12 18 12 20 25 30 31 32 30

DAY 2

Read Romans 8:34-35

When you understand what Jesus did, that He died on the cross for you, you can have a relationship with Him forever. When you trust Jesus as your savior, nothing can separate you from Him.

Trouble, Hardship, Persecution, Danger,
Your own mess ups, Death

None of these things and nothing you might want to add to this list, can separate you from God's love. No matter what happens, no matter what you do or don't do, when you put your trust in Jesus, you can have complete confidence in the truth that God loves you no matter what.

DAY 3

Read Romans 8:38-39

Grab two different colors of Play-Doh. Pull a small piece from each of the different colors and roll them up together in a ball.

Now try to separate the colors. Can you do it? No way! Anyone who's ever played with two different colors of Play-Doh knows that you don't mix them together because you can never separate them again.

God's love for you is like that Play-Doh. God loves you, always. And because of Jesus, there is nothing that can separate you from His love! **God's love isn't conditional.** That means, His love for you doesn't change based on anything you do or don't do. You can depend on God to love you, no matter what.

Hold your ball of Play-Doh as you pray today. Thank God for His constant love for you, a love that never gives us, never changes, never goes away.

**God loves you
no matter what.**

DAY 4

Read Ephesians 3:16-19

Think about the tallest mountain peak, so high that the tops are covered by the clouds. God's love is higher.

Think about the lowest point in the ocean, the part so dark and black that only certain kinds of sea life can survive there. God's love is deeper.

Think about the horizon, the point where the sun meets the earth. God's love is wider.

God's love is higher and deeper and longer and wider than we could ever imagine.

And all that love is directed right at you! He made you and loves you because you are His. God sent Jesus, His only Son, so that you could see just how much He loves you. Knowing that God loves you should fill you up with confidence and assurance that you matter. You are precious, valuable, one of a kind, loved.

Whenever you look at God's creation this week, think about it as a visual reminder that God loves you no matter what.

JULY
2021

Elementary

WEEKLY CUES

YOU GOT
THIS!

Theme

Press Play: Get in the Mix

Confidence is learning to see yourself the way God sees you.

Week One

Daniel 3
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

SAY THIS:

Trust that God is always with you.

Week Two

Matthew 14:22-33
Peter Walks on Water

SAY THIS:

Stay focused on Jesus.

Week Three

Ephesians 6:10-17
Armor of God

SAY THIS:

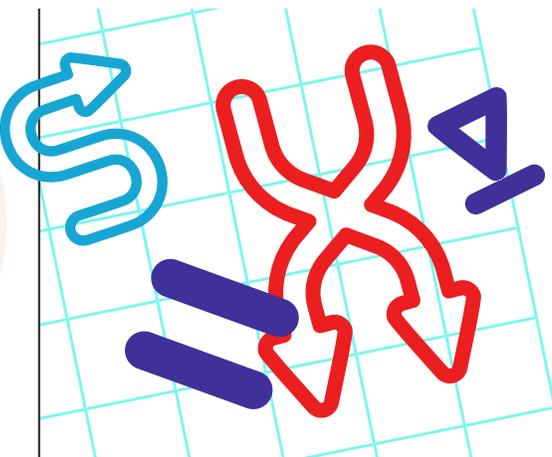
Use what God has given you to stand strong.

Week Four

Romans 8:38-39
Nothing Can Separate Us From God

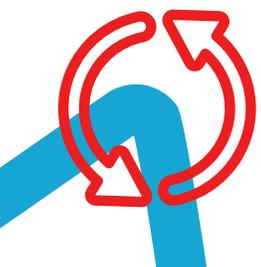
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God loves you no matter what.



REMEMBER THIS

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
Philippians 1:6, NIV



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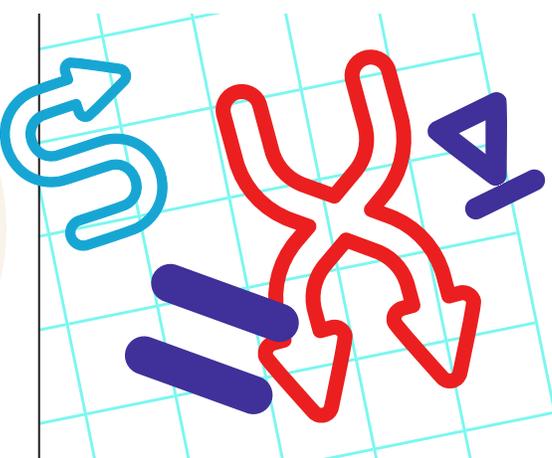
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Elementary

DAILY CUES



Morning Time

Ask your child if you can give them a temporary tattoo. If they agree, draw a heart or cross on your child's hand and tell them that this is a visual reminder that God is always with them no matter what.



Drive Time

Ask your child to fill in the blank, "God loves me even when ____." You don't have to ask the question just once. Keep coming up with answers.



Meal Time

Q & A FOR KIDS: What is something easy for you to focus on? What is something difficult?

Q&A FOR PARENTS: What helps keep you focused on Jesus?



Bed Time

The real enemy is one we can't see. Ask God to remind you that He has given you everything you need to stand strong. Share a tough situation you are facing now. Pray that God will help you give grace to the people you meet each day as you stand strong against the real enemy, using the truths you've discovered in God's Word.



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PARENT CUE

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AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDRIOD DEVICES



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