



A 5-WEEK SERIES  
FROM THE OLD  
TESTAMENT ON

# DANIEL

FROM OUR ANNUAL *TEACHING STRATEGY*



WRITTEN AND DEVELOPED WITH . . .

**CARLY BARTLETT & AARON CONLEY**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## STUFF FOR THIS SERIES

### TEACHING & PROGRAMMING

- ▶ [Series Overview](#)
- ▶ [Teaching Videos](#)
- ▶ [Hacks for Preteens & Special Needs](#)
- ▶ [Programming Guide](#)
- ▶ [Graphics & Videos](#)
- ▶ [SLIDR Presentation Software](#)
- ▶ [Coloring Book](#)

### COMMUNICATION

- ▶ [Family Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer & Parent Emails](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer & Parent Hubs](#)
- ▶ [Series Promo Cards & Posters](#)
- ▶ [Marketing Checklist](#)
- ▶ [Social Media Posts & Captions](#)

### DISCIPLESHIP

- ▶ [Memory Verse Guide](#)
- ▶ [Discipleship Guide](#)
- ▶ [Devotional for Volunteers](#)

## STUFF FOR EACH WEEK

#### WEEK 1

- ▶ [Weekly Overview](#)
- ▶ [Teaching Videos](#)
- ▶ [Hacks for Preteens & Special Needs](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

#### WEEK 2

- ▶ [Weekly Overview](#)
- ▶ [Teaching Videos](#)
- ▶ [Hacks for Preteens & Special Needs](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

#### WEEK 3

- ▶ [Weekly Overview](#)
- ▶ [Teaching Videos](#)
- ▶ [Hacks for Preteens & Special Needs](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

#### WEEK 4

- ▶ [Weekly Overview](#)
- ▶ [Teaching Videos](#)
- ▶ [Hacks for Preteens & Special Needs](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

#### WEEK 5

- ▶ [Weekly Overview](#)
- ▶ [Teaching Videos](#)
- ▶ [Hacks for Preteens & Special Needs](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

## SERIES OVERVIEW

There's a reason lions are symbols of courage — even their roars (which can be heard up to five miles away) tell us how strong they are! And because of God's promises, we can be as strong and bold as lions, too. In this five-week series, kids will learn important truths from the life of Daniel they'll want to shout (or roar!), like how we **don't have to give up** and **don't have to feel alone**. Instead, we can **keep learning** and **not be afraid**, even when we don't know the future. Why? Because **God is with us!**

### WEEK 1

This week, kids learn about **Israel's journey in Babylon**, and how God was always with them.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** I won't give up — God is with me!
- **THE BIBLE:** Daniel 1; Lamentations 3:19–26

### WEEK 2

This week, kids learn about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's devotion to God and how they ended up in **the fiery furnace**.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** I'm not alone — God is with me!
- **THE BIBLE:** Daniel 3; 2 Timothy 2:8–15

### WEEK 3

This week, kids learn about Daniel's interpretation of **the writing on the wall**.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** I can keep learning — God is with me!
- **THE BIBLE:** Daniel 5; 2 Timothy 3:14–17

### WEEK 4

This week, kids learn about **Daniel** and how he ended up **in the lion's den**.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** I'm not afraid — God is with me!
- **THE BIBLE:** Daniel 6; 2 Timothy 4:16–18

### WEEK 5

This week, kids learn about **Daniel's dream** of the strange beasts and what it meant.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** I don't know the future but I know God is with me!
- **THE BIBLE:** Daniel 7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1–4

**MEMORY VERSE:** “The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knows those who trust in him.” — Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

[Click here](#) for a memory verse sign language tutorial video you can share with your families and volunteers!

## HOW TO DISCIPLINE DURING THIS SERIES

We all know teenagers don't get disciplined just by sitting through a message every week. So here's what else we've provided to **help your students develop more consistent spiritual habits**.

### THE 4 SPIRITUAL HABITS

We feature one of Grow's 4 Spiritual Habits every month with a unique activity or experience. But the 4 Spiritual Habits show up year-round! **Here are a few of the places you can spot them in this series:**

- **SPEND TIME WITH GOD:** This series is all about remembering that God is with us always! But what are some ways we can be with God? Week 3's lesson about "I can keep learning" contains multiple Building Blocks about how kids can grow their faith.
- **SPEND TIME WITH OTHERS:** Check out the secondary Scripture from Week 1, "Postcard From the Zoo" (Week 2), and "Elephant Parade" (Week 5) for in-depth conversations about how other people not only serve as mentors and companions but help them grow and be brave.
- **USE YOUR GIFTS:** Using your gifts starts with having the courage to try. Week 1's "I Won't Give Up" module reminds kids that because God is with them, they can be resilient with old things while being bold enough to try new things.
- **SHARE YOUR STORY:** In "Don't You Worry About a Thing" (Week 4) and "Giants" (Week 5), kids will have the opportunity to talk about fears and insecurities they have that might deter them from sharing the stories God has put in their hearts.

### GROW AT HOME

This series (and every series!) comes with **monthly and weekly handouts for families** to help kids and their grown-ups continue the conversation at home. Don't forget to send or print them at the beginning of each series!



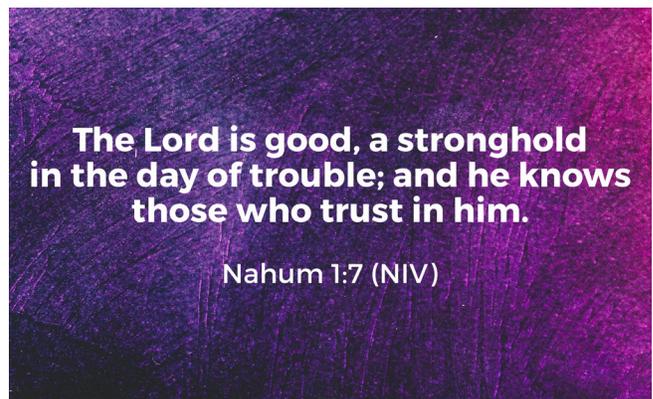
### DISCIPLESHIP ACTIVITY

If you're following along with our scope and sequence, our discipleship activity this quarter is the **Spiritual Habit Tracker**, an activity to help kids **spend time with others**. We also made you some [posters and graphics](#) for this quarter's habit you can print, display, or share online.



### MEMORY VERSE

Try challenging students to memorize a verse that corresponds with the Big Ideas or themes of this series. Here's the verse we chose — and [we made graphics](#) you can post, print, or show on screen too!



## HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS SERIES



### CREATE A THEME

This month's decorating theme is **zoo animals** because one of the best-known stories of Daniel's life is **his time in the lion's den!** You can find on-theme decorating ideas, song recommendations, posters, and graphics in this month's [Programming folder](#).



### DESIGN

We made **lots of graphics** for you! Use them to create slides, social media posts, and more! You can find them in your [Graphics & Video folder](#), along with a Style Guide for this series.



### SHOP & PREP

We made a list of everything you'll need to buy, borrow, or dig out of your storage closet in order to make this series happen. We've also included everything you'll need to print, cut, glue, build or make, in order to make this series happen. Get your editable Shop & Prep List [right here](#).



### CUSTOMIZE

You know your kids and ministry better than we do, so **you might want make some tweaks to this week's lesson.** Customize the lesson by editing the Word document in your series downloads or in the [Message Builder](#). Then customize this week's presentation in [SLIDR](#) by adding or adjusting the images and videos you need for this week's lesson. Finally, customize your teaching content in your [Volunteer and Parent Hubs](#) to share it with everyone's grown-ups!



### HACK

If you're using Grow for your kids, you may want to make some tweaks to make it more age appropriate. **Get the Preteen Hacks** for the entire series [right here](#) and **the Special Needs Hacks** for the entire series [right here](#). Or . . .

- ▶ **WEEK 1:** [Preteen](#) & [Special Needs](#)
- ▶ **WEEK 2:** [Preteen](#) & [Special Needs](#)
- ▶ **WEEK 3:** [Preteen](#) & [Special Needs](#)
- ▶ **WEEK 4:** [Preteen](#) & [Special Needs](#)
- ▶ **WEEK 5:** [Preteen](#) & [Special Needs](#)



### COMMUNICATE

To make sure volunteers and families are in the loop, don't forget about these . . .

- ▶ [Parent & Volunteer Hubs](#)
- ▶ [Parent & Volunteer Emails](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Devotional](#)
- ▶ [Family Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Marketing Checklist](#)
- ▶ [Social Media Posts & Captions](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse](#)



WRITTEN & DEVELOPED WITH . . .

**Carly Bartlett** is a preacher and writer from the beautiful Pacific Northwest and is pursuing her MDiv. from Nazarene Theological Seminary. Carly loves traveling to Disney World, going on walks with her 90 lb. goldendoodle, and watching “The Great British Baking Show,” although she can’t bake to save her life! If you’d like to chat with Carly about storytelling in preaching, mentoring the next generation, or what it’s like to manage her wildly curly hair, reach out! She would love to connect with you!

**Aaron Conley** is a Children’s Pastor at Keystone Church in Durham, North Carolina where he and his wife, Julia, have served since October 2019. He has diverse ministry experiences including, planning outreach events, organizing discipleship strategy, and serving on the worship team. He loves doing anything outdoors – whether it’s fishing on his kayak, hiking in the mountains, or coaching on the baseball field, he’s in his happy place. If you’d like to chat with Aaron about kids ministry, discipleship, or Atlanta Braves baseball, reach out! He would love to connect with you!

. . . AND THE REST OF THE TEAM!



**SERIES DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW:** Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Linda Moon, Crystal Quintero, Stephen Switzer, David Magallanes, Stephanie Whitacre, Stephanie Riebe, Karen Erne, Grace Cho

**HACKS FOR PRETEENS & SPECIAL NEEDS:** Mike Sheley, Tyler Thompson, Amy Grubb, Sunny Brown, Christin Rickman

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**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:** Kenny Campbell, Tash McGill, Ali Gattison, Kellee Gentry, Madison Terry, Caitlyn Smelser, Jada Smith, Avery Cochran, Emily Acton, Jay Logan, Eddie Irvin

# DEVOTIONAL FOR VOLUNTEERS



## STUDY

When was the last time you acted with ferocious faith? The kind of faith that helped you overcome your fears or stick with something difficult? This month, we're comparing the strength of God's promises to the mighty roar of the lion. God was just as present with those in the book of Daniel as God was with Jesus and his followers. And God is with you now. The stories you'll be teaching will remind you that it doesn't matter what our age or situation is, we can still keep learning and trusting that God is with us to make our faith strong.

To get ready for this series, **spend a few minutes going over the stories you'll be sharing with kids.** As you do, think about what God has taught you (and is still teaching you) about the loud and clear promises of God. Ask yourself how these Big Ideas have been true in your life.

**WEEK 1: I won't give up — God is with me!** Daniel 1; Lamentations 3:19-26

**WEEK 2: I'm not alone — God is with me!** Daniel 3; 2 Timothy 2:8-15

**WEEK 3: I can keep learning — God is with me!** Daniel 5; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

**WEEK 4: I'm not afraid — God is with me!** Daniel 6; 2 Timothy 4:16-18

**WEEK 5: I don't know the future but I know God is with me!** Daniel 7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

## PRAY

Fear is frustrating because it tempts us to lean on what we know or what we think will happen next. Faith, on the other hand, puts our trust in God and gives us reasons to keep going even when things are uncertain. In the stories we find in the book of Daniel, we see adults (just like you and me) facing serious stuff that requires a ferocious kind of faith. Think about the situations you've been in lately and ask yourself what was loudest in those moments . . . fear or faith? We all *want* to say that faith comes to mind first but it's not always our first reaction. We can trust God in these moments to help us and teach us something new. God has promised to never leave you.

**Which passage of Scripture or Big Idea from this month is most relevant to you right now?** Spend a few minutes asking God to show you how you've already grown in this area, plus the next step you need to take in order to keep growing.

## GROW

So what's your next step? Do you need encouragement to keep going? Do you need to remember that God is with you? Do you need to trust God to teach you something new? It could be time to admit some fears you have about the future and ask God to replace your frustrations with a desire to act in faith.

**Whatever your next step is right now, take it. Then help kids do the same.**

# MEMORY VERSE

## SIGN LANGUAGE



We all know that strategic hand motions help kids remember what they're learning, but what if you could accomplish *even more* than simply helping kids remember Scripture? Every Grow Kids memory verse is provided in age-appropriate signs, using a combination of SEE and ASL. Encouraging kids to learn each memory verse in this way will better **include kids and families impacted by hearing impairment**, and will **promote awareness and inclusion** for the rest of your kids and families!

This memory verse was translated into sign language and performed by Sunny Brown, a pastor in Atlanta, and ASL interpreter, with an Associates in ASL Interpreting and a Minor in Deaf Studies.

*The Lord is good,  
a stronghold  
in the day of  
trouble; and he  
knows those who  
trust in him.*

Nahum 1:7 (NIV)



**MEMORY VERSE:** "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knows those who trust in him." – Nahum 1:7 (NIV)



THE LORD IS GOOD,  
THE LORD IS GOOD,  
AS THE BORN OF TROUBLE;  
IN THE DAY OF RAINBOWS  
AND CLOUDS TRUST IN  
THOSE WHO

NAHUM 1:7 (NIV)

# WEEK 1

## LESSON OVERVIEW



### BIG IDEA

I won't give up – God is with me!

### BIBLE

**Babylonian Captivity:**  
Daniel 1; Lamentations 3:19-26

## STUFF FOR THIS WEEK

### TEACHING – WEEK 1

- ▶ [Shop & Prep List](#)
- ▶ [Teaching Videos](#)
- ▶ [Hacks for Preteens & Special Needs](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

### FAMILIES & VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ [Family Handouts](#)
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- ▶ [Social Media Posts & Captions](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS WEEK



### DESIGN

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- ▶ [Social Media Posts & Captions](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse](#)

# WEEK 1

## HACKS FOR PRETEENS



### **REVISE**

To make this series more accessible for preteens, here's what to adjust . . .

#### **ACTIVITY | Penguin Soccer**

Consider using six-foot tables, unfolded with the flat side facing game play, as goals.

#### **POLL | Petting Zoo Possibilities**

In addition to having preteens answer the poll, have them share a story about a funny zoo or animal encounter.

### **REPLACE**

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

#### **ACTIVITY | Tiny Zoo**

Create a station for preteens to use Minecraft or Roblox to design their zoo digitally.

### **REMEMBER**

This month's theme is all about the zoo . . . and some preteens might feel like they're "over it. But even the "coolest" preteen has to admit some animals are pretty interesting! Do some research and find some fascinating — or funny! — animal clips to share with kids to keep them immersed in the theme to remind them just how amazing God is to have created these animals and continues to watch over us all.

# WEEK 1

## HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



### **REVISE**

To make this series more accessible for kids with special needs, here's what to adjust . . .

#### **BIG IDEA | I won't give up – God is with me!**

To reduce auditory stimuli, consider leaving out the lion's roar or providing friends with noise-canceling headphones.

#### **ACTIVITY | Penguin Soccer**

Instead of tying bandanas around friends' knees, demonstrate waddling and encourage that as an alternative to walking for getting from one end to the other.

### **REPLACE**

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

#### **VIDEO | Winter the Dolphin**

Prepare coloring pages of a variety of animals and have kids color them in. Once their picture is completed, have kids point out what is most important to each animal. For example, an elephant does everything with its trunk, an eagle needs its wings, and turtles need their shell. Talk with kids about how difficult it would be for each animal if something went wrong with these necessary parts of them. Then tell kids you know about one animal who didn't give up even though this very thing happened to her, then show the video of Winter the Dolphin.

### **REMEMBER**

It is very useful to create different modalities to acclimate children who learn differently. You could incorporate this in your teaching by using methods such as: singing a song (musical), drawing a chart or playing a matching game (visual), using hand motions (bodily/kinesthetic), presentation (verbal), discussing in a small group (interpersonal), filling out individual worksheets (intrapersonal), or conducting nature walks through several stations (naturalistic).

# WEEK 1

## LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

I won't give up — God is with me!

### BIBLE

**Babylonian Captivity:**  
Daniel 1; Lamentations 3:19-26

## LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome to our new series, *Hear Me Roar!* We're going to spend some time over the next few weeks at the Babylon Zoo, where we'll meet some courageous . . . and some not so courageous . . . creatures! Coincidentally, Babylon is the city where all our Bible stories this month take place! Are you ready? If so, let me hear you roar!

### WHAT? What are we talking about today?

#### MUSIC | Worship

- **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!](#)
  - "Echo" (Elevation Worship)
  - "God Is Always With Us" (Lifetree Kids)
  - "I'm Trusting You" (Lifetree Kids)
  - "Not Afraid" (Rend Co. Kids)
  - "Journey of a Lifetime" (Kids on the Move)

#### ACTIVITY | Penguin Soccer

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, divide the kids into two even teams. Set soccer goals or cones on both sides of the room. Tie a bandana or piece of fabric around each player's knees (but don't tie the players together), so they have to waddle as they play. We recommend showing a picture like [this](#) of a penguin prior to playing. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Instead of tying bandanas around friends' knees, demonstrate waddling and encourage that as an alternative to walking for getting from one end to the other.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Consider using six-foot tables, unfolded with the flat side facing game play, as goals.

- I'm so happy you're here visiting the Babylon Zoo today! I'm the zookeeper here, and I'm going to show you around. Let's start our tour with those fancy birds who wear tuxedos! **Do you know which ones I mean?** That's right! We're headed to the penguin exhibit! *[Show picture of penguins.]*
- Looks like they're getting ready for a game of soccer. Let's join them! *[Divide kids into two teams and play as described.]*
- **Was it difficult to play with your knees tied together? Since it was different than what you're used to, did you ever want to give up?**

### ACTIVITY | Lions and Hyenas

- I'm so excited to introduce you to my favorite animals here at the zoo. Let's leave the chilly Antarctic and head to the grasslands of Africa!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Keep the kids in the same teams they were in for Penguin Soccer, and keep the goals in place too. Choose one kid from each team to be the wild hyena, who is "it." The goals will act as "dens" and each team will begin across the room from their den. The goal is for your whole team to cross to the other side and end up in their den. The catch is, they'll have to watch out for the wild hyena! If they're tagged by the other team's wild hyena, they must lay on the ground and freeze. Another player from their team must come and "unfreeze" them. The first team to have all of their pride together in their team's den wins! For an added challenge, have kids play on all fours like lions and hyenas. Before playing, show kids a picture of a lion next to a hyena, like [this](#) one. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- **Can you guess what animals we'll see next?** Here's a hint *[show picture of lion next to hyena]*. Yes, the lions and the hyenas! They're playing a game of tag. Come on, let's play!

### POLL | Petting Zoo Possibilities

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite the kids to sit together and talk about the following scenarios. Have kids raise their hands in response to the statements with which they agree.*
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *In addition to having preteens answer the poll, have them share a story about a funny zoo or animal encounter.*
- Here at the Babylon Zoo, we're thinking about putting in a new petting zoo. I need your help thinking about what animals we should include.
- **Raise your hand if you would . . .**
  - **Cuddle with a koala.**
  - **Ride a camel.**
  - **Touch an octopus.**
  - **Kiss a frog.**
  - **Let a parakeet sit on your arm.**
  - **Let a bearded dragon sleep on your bed.**
  - **Drape a python around your shoulders.**
  - **Hold a baby crocodile.**
  - **Pet an ADULT crocodile.**
  - **Spend a night at the zoo inside the cheetah exhibit.**
- Most of you raised your hands at the beginning, but then many of you said, "No way!" when it came to some of the animals. **What made you decide to say no?**

**SO WHAT?** *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

**SCRIPTURE | Daniel 1 (Babylonian Captivity)**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Dressed as a zookeeper, tell the story of Daniel 1 as though you're guiding kids through an exhibit at the Babylon Zoo. Remain in the zookeeper character.*
- You know, the variety of fascinating animals here at Babylon Zoo brings visitors from all over! As the zookeeper, it's my job to get to know some of them, and the other day I met four friends who were just as interesting as the animals we keep here.
- One of the guys, Daniel, told me they were new in town. He and three of his friends just arrived here from Jerusalem. It's kind of a sad story.
  - You see, they were brought to Babylon by our king, a man named Nebuchadnezzar. He took these friends from their homes and families to make them come work for him. They've been through a rough time, and are trying to acclimate — a fancy word for adjust — to their new "home."
  - Their names were even changed when they arrived here. Daniel's name got changed to Belteshazzar, and his friends are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. *[Invite kids to say these names with you to help them remember.]*
- I can tell that there is something special about these guys. Listen to what Daniel told me.
  - *[Read Daniel 1:8–20.]*
- Isn't that amazing?! I mean, these guys were hand-picked and brought here to become special workers for the king. He even gave them his very own food, and trust me, the guy eats GOOD!
  - But apparently, those guys refused to eat the kind of food that the king eats — they wanted to eat the way they used to back home because they wanted to honor God. So instead they asked for vegetables and water only.
  - The really crazy thing is after ten days they were healthier, stronger, and wiser than everyone else! I mean, if you need any more reasons for why you should eat your veggies, here's a good one!
- But in all seriousness, because they kept their faith in God even though they were in a brand new place with unfamiliar rules and traditions, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are standing out in a good way. King Nebuchadnezzar has started calling them in to give him advice. That's pretty cool, right?
- I'm sure we'll hear more about these guys soon. For now, let's keep moving.

**BIG IDEA | I won't give up — God is with me!**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Create a [coconut tree](#) to be used to reveal the Big Idea each week of the series. Insert papers with the Big Ideas into the coconuts and close them. Attach the plastic coconut cups to the tree with twine. Place a stuffed lion at the base of the tree or show a picture of a sleeping lion like [this](#) one. Decorate the space with flamingo yard decorations to create a flamingo exhibit. Play the song, "[The Lion Sleeps Tonight](#)," as you gather the kids. After the Big Idea reveal, play a [sound bite of a lion's roar](#). For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *To reduce auditory stimuli, consider leaving out the lion's roar or providing friends with noise-canceling headphones.*
- It sounds like our biggest lion, Ari, is sleeping right now. We will try to wake him up in a bit, but for now, let's stay here and let him nap. While he's sleeping, we're going to talk about our Big Idea . . . but I wonder where we can find it. *[Look around for a few seconds and then grab a coconut off the tree.]* Let's crack this open and see what we find.
- *[Remove paper containing the Big Idea and read it out loud.]*

- **I won't give up – God is with me!** I think it's time for Ari, the lion, to wake up! Let's shout – or should I say, *roar* – the Big Idea! Stand up and roar that **I won't give up – God is with me!** [Play a [sound bite of a lion's roar!](#)]

### VIDEO | Hear Me Roar, Episode 1

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

### VIDEO | Winter the Dolphin

- As you know, the lion is my favorite animal – but I do love most other animals. **Do you have a favorite animal?** Shout it out!
- One of my friends works with animals in another zoo in Florida, and she told me about this amazing dolphin that she used to know. Let's check it out.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ahead of time, prepare to show a [video of Winter the Dolphin](#), as well as pictures or a video clip of an athlete that has overcome a physical challenge to do exceptional things, such as pro-surfer Bethany Hamilton. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Prepare coloring pages of a variety of animals and have kids color them in. Once their picture is completed, have kids point out what is most important to each animal. For example, an elephant does everything with its trunk, an eagle needs its wings, and turtles need their shell. Talk with kids about how difficult it would be for each animal if something went wrong with these necessary parts of them. Then tell kids you know about one animal who didn't give up even though this very thing happened to her, then show the video of Winter the Dolphin.
- Wasn't that an amazing story? Winter didn't give up! After losing her tail, she learned to swim with a new, prosthetic tail. Winter was courageous to learn something new when it would have been easy to give up.
- **Do you know anyone that wears a prosthesis or has experienced other physical challenges?** [Show a picture or video clip of an athlete that has overcome a physical challenge to do exceptional things.]
- Even when our circumstances aren't the most ideal, when we don't give up and keep trusting in God, we can rise above our difficult situations!
- You and I can do the same. Remember our Big Idea? Let's say it together: **I won't give up – God is with me!**

### ACTIVITY | Locomotion Commotion Relay Race

- We're going to play a game where you're going to adapt and learn to move like other animals.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into teams. Players will race to their team's cone at the end of the room and come back. Each player will do a different animal movement to get to the cone, like crab walk, squirrel jog (walk along a line on the floor like a tightrope), armadillo roll (roll across the room), and kangaroo bounce (jump with two feet together). Once a player reaches the cone, they can run back without doing the animal movement and tag the next player. The first team to get all their team members to finish the race wins!
- **What was the most challenging "animal movement" for you in the relay race?** The armadillo roll seems the hardest to me! I'd get so dizzy!
- **What made you not want to give up?**
- **Did the encouragement from your friends help?**
- You didn't give up, and part of that was because you could hear your teammates cheering you on! In a similar way, when we realize that God is cheering for us, we're motivated to not give up, even when we are stepping out of our comfort zone!

- Let's say our Big Idea together: **I won't give up – God is with me!**
- Great job! Hmmm . . . What direction should we go now? [*Place a finger on your ear, pretending to listen to someone in an earpiece.*] Oh! My boss just let me know we're needed back at the flamingo exhibit. Let's go!

### SCRIPTURE | Lamentations 3:19–26

- Sometimes I get flustered on days we have a lot of guests here at the zoo. Thankfully, I'm not alone. I have a friend who watches over me and talks with me. She's my mentor here at the zoo – and in all of my life, actually. Her name is Professor Sahara.
- **Do you know what a mentor is?** Mentors are people who have gone before you. They believe in you and train you to follow in their footsteps!
- [*Put your finger on your earpiece again and pretend to listen.*] Oh, that's a great idea! Let's read Lamentations 3:19–26.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Lamentations 3:19–26.*
- This passage tells us what to do in moments when we feel like giving up. The writer of Lamentations said there are lots of things that brought them down, like hardship, wandering, and bitterness. But they didn't give up trusting in God because God never gives up on us! God continues to watch over us, every morning, every day. That's what it means to say that God is faithful.
- That Scripture also reminds me of Jesus! Jesus' love never fails. He loves us no matter what. Every morning, without fail, Jesus watches over us, talks with us, and helps us to follow in his footsteps.
- Does that sound familiar? Remember we just talked about the word "mentor"? Jesus is the greatest mentor there is! Jesus helps each of us to grow and to follow him, even in hard situations. He is always with us, and reminds us not to give up!

## NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

### REFLECTION | I Won't Give Up

- **Have you ever faced something so difficult that you decided to give up?**
- Sometimes, we want to give up when things are too hard! Sometimes, we may even want to give up on following God when things are difficult. I bet Daniel and his friends felt that way too when they found themselves far away from home, in Babylon, being forced to work for King Nebuchadnezzar! But they didn't give up because they knew God was with them.
- **Who are the people in your life who help you feel brave and give you the courage to keep going?**
- God doesn't often hold up a megaphone and give us instructions or encouragement that we can hear. But, God does speak to us through other people, through the Bible, and by providing us wisdom as we make important decisions. God is with us and gives us the courage to persevere, even when we feel discouraged.
- **How do you know that God is with you?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the [video](#) of the song, "Try Everything," from Zootopia. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- This theme song from the movie "Zootopia" is called "Try Everything." **Do you think that it means we should literally try everything?** Probably not, right? We could get ourselves into a lot of trouble or danger if we did that! What this song tells us is what we've learned all along today – to not give up and to give everything we do our best shot.
- Just like the song says, we can say it, too: "I won't give up, no I won't give in, 'til I reach the end . . . and then I'll start again."
- **What's something you won't give up on because God is with you?**

## RESPONSE | The Open Door

- At the Babylon Zoo, we do our best to provide each animal a lovely space in their enclosure. We try to replicate their natural environment in the wild, so they feel right at home here.
- Every once in a while, though, I see animals pacing back and forth. I think they get antsy and may start to feel trapped. They may want to run free in wide-open spaces, and they're looking for a way out.
- **Do you think Daniel and his friends may have felt trapped when they arrived in Babylon?** They were used to the freedom they had at home in Jerusalem, and even as they carried out their duties for King Nebuchadnezzar, I would imagine they were praying for a way out.
- There may be times in our lives when we're tempted to give up because we feel "trapped," much like Daniel and his friends did. But then, we can remember that God is with us and that God can open any door! **I won't give up — God is with me!**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide each kid with some art supplies like crayons or markers, as well as the printable of a zoo cage with an open door.
- Draw a picture of a time you were reminded that God was with you. Maybe God comforted you when you moved to a new school, or God gave you the courage to apologize to your sibling after an argument, or God helped you keep practicing something that was difficult.
- I'm grateful that God opens doors in our lives and reminds us that we're not stuck. I'm so thankful that God is with us!

## MEMORY VERSE | Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

- **"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him."**
- *[Hold your finger up to your ear again, as if listening to the earpiece.]* Professor Sahara just notified me that some of the combinations for the locks on the animal exhibits have been mixed up. The zoo needs our help finding them!
- Let's find the lockbox with our group's color and the combination. They are hidden somewhere in the room! Once we find it, let's unscramble the numbers to open the cage!
- Once you open the lockbox, say the memory verse out loud with your group.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hide a box or a cage in the room for each small group to find. Assign each small group a specific color to find. They need to find the lockbox marked with their assigned color, and a combination clue in their color. Once they find the clue, they must unscramble the combination numbers (which are out of order), to open their lockbox and find the memory verse — Nahum 1:7. **(Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs — a combination of SEE and ASL — available in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/Nahum1-7](http://growcurriculum.org/Nahum1-7).)**

## PRAYER

- God, thank you that you are with me. Even when things are difficult, you encourage me and remind me that I can do it! Even when it seems like a door is locked in my life, you help me open it or find a new way out. This gives me strength, courage, and hope! Your compassion never fails. I won't give up, because you are with me! Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- **How did Daniel and his friends end up in Babylon?**
- **What did the four of them do differently from others who were brought to Babylon?**

- What happened because of this choice they made?
- Read Lamentations 3:21–22. What does the writer of this Scripture say is our reason for hope?
- What are some things you put your hope in? Winning? Attention? Friendships?
- Was there a time you made a different choice than those around you because it was the right one? Was it difficult?
- What helped you to not give up?

### ACTIVITY | Tiny Zoo

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Lay out a large piece of butcher paper on a table for each group and give them a box of supplies for the day. Show the kids a picture of the [sample zoo](#).
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Create a station for preteens to use Minecraft or Roblox to design their zoo digitally.
- We're going to work on building a zoo together. It sounds a little overwhelming, right? How are we going to do it? Just a few steps at a time! Each week this month, we're going to add a few pieces here and there, until we have a totally wild tiny zoo! Today, we're just going to create an overall map for our zoo.
- Just like we're making a map for the zoo, I know God is watching over me and has a plan for me. That's why, say it with me, **I won't give up — God is with me!**

# WEEK 1

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

I won't give up — God is with me!

### BIBLE

**Babylonian Captivity:**  
Daniel 1; Lamentations 3:19-26

## QUESTIONS

- How did Daniel and his friends end up in Babylon?
- What did the four of them do differently from others who were brought to Babylon?
- What happened because of this choice they made?
- Read Lamentations 3:21–22. What does the writer of this Scripture say is our reason for hope?
- What are some things you put your hope in? Winning? Attention? Friendships?
- Was there a time you made a different choice than those around you because it was the right one? Was it difficult?
- What helped you to not give up?

## ACTIVITY

Lay out a large piece of butcher paper on a table for each group and give them a box of supplies for the day. Scan QR code to show the kids a picture of the sample zoo.



We're going to work on building a zoo together. It sounds a little overwhelming, right? How are we going to do it? Just a few steps at a time! Each week this month, we're going to add a few pieces here and there, until we have a totally wild tiny zoo! Today, we're just going to create an overall map for our zoo.

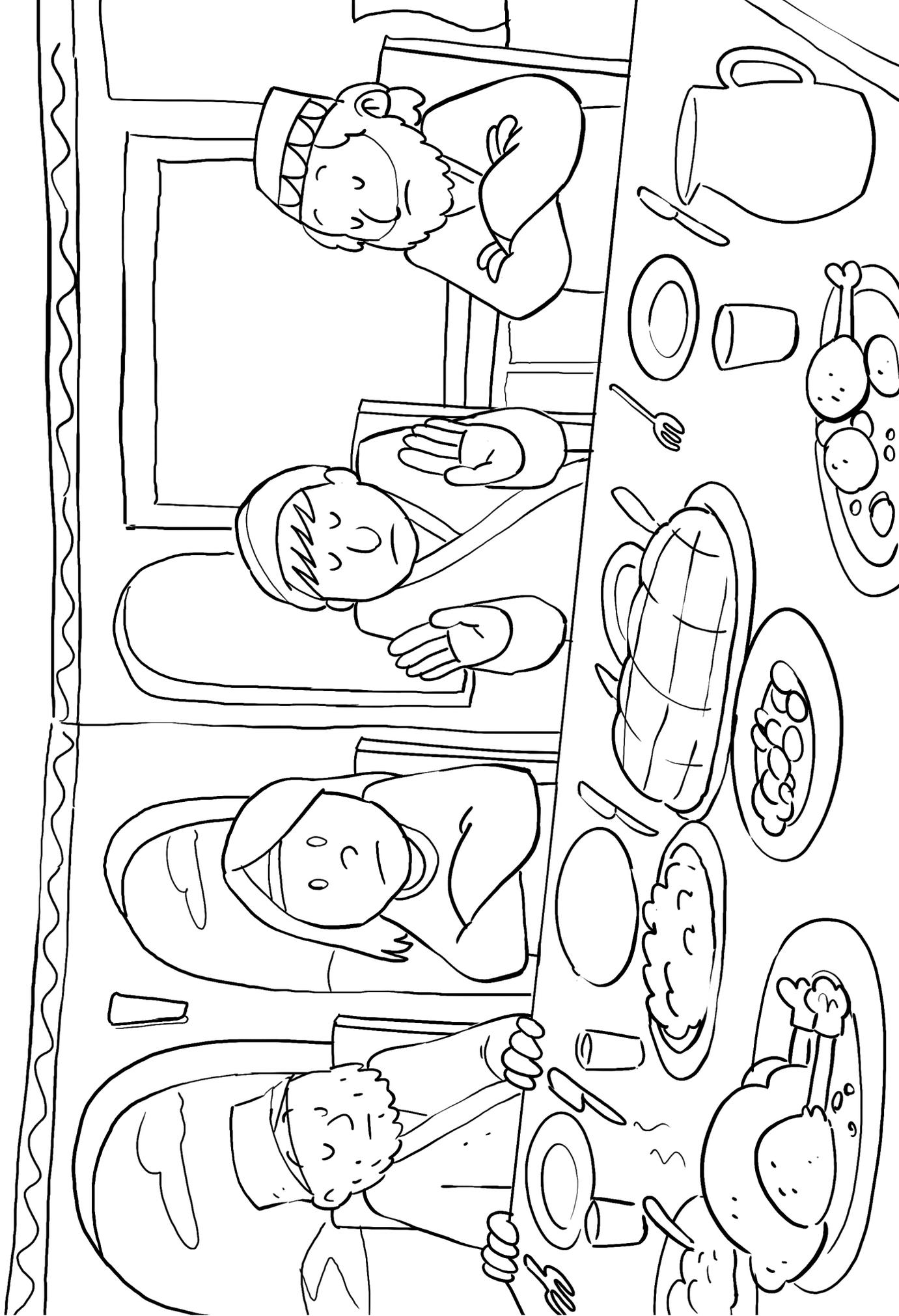
Just like we're making a map for the zoo, I know God is watching over me and has a plan for me. That's why, say it with me, **I won't give up — God is with me!**

**MEMORY VERSE:** "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble;  
and he knows those who trust in him." — Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

[Click here](#) for a memory verse sign language tutorial video you can share with your families and volunteers!

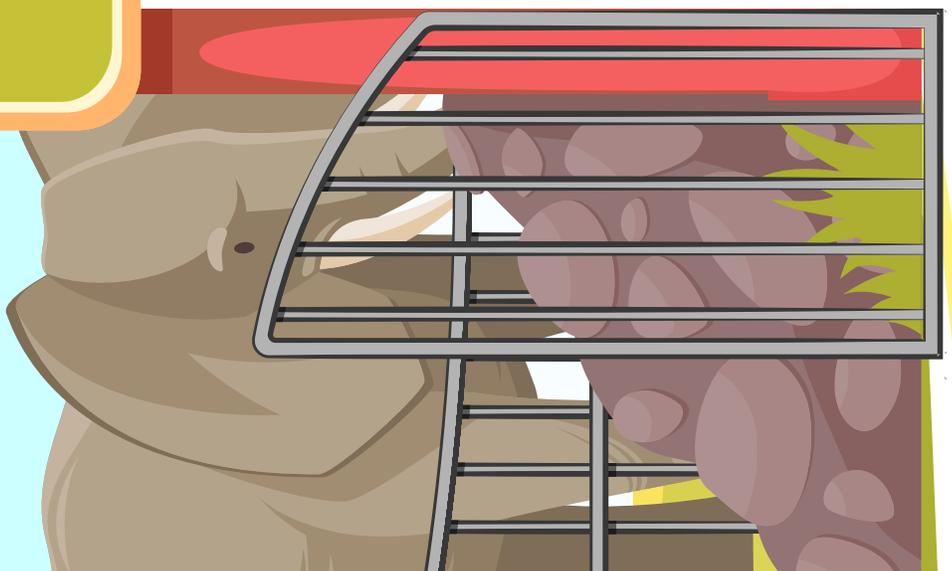
**BIG IDEA:** I won't give up — God is with me!

**BIBLE:** Babylonian Captivity: Daniel 1; Lamentations 3:19-26





ZOO



## WEEK 2 LESSON OVERVIEW



### BIG IDEA

I'm not alone – God is with me!

### BIBLE

**The Fiery Furnace:**  
Daniel 3; 2 Timothy 2:8-15

## STUFF FOR THIS WEEK

### TEACHING – WEEK 2

- ▶ [Shop & Prep List](#)
- ▶ [Teaching Videos](#)
- ▶ [Hacks for Preteens & Special Needs](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

### FAMILIES & VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ [Family Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer & Parent Emails](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer & Parent Hubs](#)
- ▶ [Series Promo Cards & Posters](#)
- ▶ [Marketing Checklist](#)
- ▶ [Social Media Posts & Captions](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS WEEK



### DESIGN

We made **lots of graphics** for you! Use them to create slides, social media posts, and more! You can find them in your [Graphics & Video folder.](#), along with a Style Guide for this series.



### CUSTOMIZE

You know your kids and ministry better than we do, so **you might want make some tweaks to this week's lesson.** Customize the lesson by editing the Word document in your series downloads or in the [Message Builder](#). Then customize this week's presentation in [SLIDR](#) by adding or adjusting the images and videos you need for this week's lesson. Finally, customize your teaching content in your [Volunteer and Parent Hubs](#) to share it with everyone's grown-ups!



### SHOP & PREP

**We made a list** of everything you'll need to make this week happen. Get your editable Shop & Prep List [right here.](#)



## HACK

If you're using Grow for your kids, you may want to make some tweaks to make it more age appropriate. **Get the Preteen Hacks** for Week 2 [here](#) and the **Special Needs Hacks** for Week 2 [here](#).



## COMMUNICATE

To make sure volunteers and families are in the loop, don't forget about these . . .

- ▶ [Parent & Volunteer Hubs](#)
- ▶ [Parent & Volunteer Emails](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Devotional](#)
- ▶ [Family Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Marketing Checklist](#)
- ▶ [Social Media Posts & Captions](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse](#)

# WEEK 2

## HACKS FOR PRETEENS



### REVISE

To make this series more accessible for preteens, here's what to adjust . . .

#### **ACTIVITY | Ant Race**

Have preteens compete in a three-legged relay race where they have to dribble the beach ball with their joined feet around the race course.

### REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

#### **ACTIVITY | Troop Trivia**

Give preteens a place to discover common ground by playing an animal-themed game of Never Have I Ever. For example, preteens could respond to prompts like, "Never have I ever seen a shiver of sharks in real life."

#### **ACTIVITY | Postcard from the Zoo**

Encourage preteens to send a text or video message, or set up a time to FaceTime their friend or family member.

### REMEMBER

Challenge preteens to think about the friendships they make . . . can they say that they have trustworthy and loyal friends like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? What kinds of friends are they making right now? How can they be better friends?

## WEEK 2

### HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



#### **REVISE**

To make this series more accessible for kids with special needs, here's what to adjust . . .

##### **ACTIVITY | Otter Tag**

Have friends that have been tagged identify themselves by putting on a hat or a vest, or holding a bright piece of paper. Only the final two friends tagged will be able to tag others.

##### **ACTIVITY | Postcard from the Zoo**

Provide stickers or cut-out images and glue for friends who have difficulty writing.

#### **REPLACE**

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

##### **ACTIVITY | Ant Race**

Have kids line up in teams and have them pass the beach ball from one end of the line to the other. The last person then goes to the front of the line and passes it down the line. Keep going until the original first player returns to position, then have the team sit down to show that they have finished. Don't worry about making it a race or timing them but give them ample time to complete the activity.

#### **REMEMBER**

##### **MEMORY VERSE | Nahum 1:7 (NIV)**

Keep in mind some friends may prefer to recite their portion of the memory verse from a piece of paper or a picture prompt, rather than memory.

## WEEK 2 LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

I'm not alone – God is with me!

### BIBLE

**The Fiery Furnace:**  
Daniel 3; 2 Timothy 2:8-15

## LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome back to *Hear Me Roar*, where we get to share in the adventures happening around the Babylon Zoo! I'm the zookeeper here, and I can't wait to show you around. The capybaras just had babies last night, so I have been ooh-ing and aah-ing over those sweet things all morning! I'll show you pictures later but tell me, **what's your favorite baby animal?**

### WHAT? What are we talking about today?

#### MUSIC | Worship

- **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!](#)
  - "Echo" (Elevation Worship)
  - "God Is Always With Us" (Lifetree Kids)
  - "I'm Trusting You" (Lifetree Kids)
  - "Not Afraid" (Rend Co. Kids)
  - "Journey of a Lifetime" (Kids on the Move)

#### ACTIVITY | Otter Tag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ahead of time, find a picture of an otter raft, like [this](#) one. (For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)) To start the game, choose one kid to be "it." This kid will try to tag the rest. Once tagged, the kids will link arms and both kids will be "it" together. Only the kids on the ends of the chain can tag others. The game ends when there is only one otter left unattached to the raft. They are the winner!
  - ✳ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have friends that have been tagged identify themselves by putting on a hat or a vest, or holding a bright piece of paper. Only the final two friends tagged will be able to tag others.
- Let's make our way to the otter exhibit. Did you know that otters link arms when they're eating, sleeping, or resting? A group of otters is called a raft! [Show picture.]
- In our next game, you'll all be otters creating your own raft!

### ACTIVITY | Troop Trivia

- **Do you remember what my favorite animal is?** Yes! It's a lion! **Do you know what a group of lions is called?** Right, a pride! Today we're going to play a little something I call "Troop Trivia." I need three volunteers to battle it out to see who knows the most about groups of animals!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask for three volunteers. Give each kid a clipboard, pen, and ten small pieces of paper. While playing, show a picture of each animal grouping on a screen. (For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)) You can also get everyone involved by having kids play in small groups of four or five kids per team.
  - ✳ **PRETEEN HACK:** Give preteens a place to discover common ground by playing an animal-themed game of Never Have I Ever. For example, preteens could respond to prompts like, "Never have I ever seen a shiver of sharks in real life."
- I'm going to put a picture of a group of animals on the screen, along with four multiple choice options. Write down what you think the name of that group of animals is called, and then I will ask you to reveal your answers.
  - 1: [Rhinos](#): **A) Crash** B) Squish C) Family D) Drove
  - 2: [Bats](#): A) Nest B) Barrel **C) Cauldron** D) Pack
  - 3: [Alligators](#) A) School **B) Congregation** C) Pod **D) Cackle**
  - 4: [Giraffes](#) A) Band B) Parade C) Labor **D) Tower**
  - 5: [Camels](#) **A) Caravan** B) Business C) Cast D) Liter
  - 6: [Ferrets](#) A) School B) Drove **C) Business** D) Swarm
  - 7: [Frogs](#) A) Family B) Shiver **C) Army** D) Fever
  - 8: [Skunk](#) A) Stink **B) Stench** C) Odor D) Crew
  - 9: [Parrots](#) A) Prickle B) Mob C) Parliament **D) Pandemonium**
  - 10: [Jellyfish](#) A) Pack B) Leap C) Bloat **D) Smack**
- Thanks to all of our wonderful contestants. But today, there is only one esteemed animal expert! Let's give them a roar of applause!

### QUESTION | Animal Kingdom Experts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to share their thoughts on the questions below. Depending on the size of the group, you can do this together or by having kids circle up with three or four kids sitting nearby.
- Something I love to think about is how every animal is unique, just like each of us.
- **If you could be any animal, what would you want to be and why?**
- Most animals travel around in groups, but some like to be alone. I get it – sometimes I just needed some peace and quiet too!
- **Would you rather be an animal that travels and works in a group or would you rather be on your own?**
- **What's your favorite activity to do when you're alone?**
- **What's your favorite thing to do with your friends?**
- We may like to be by ourselves sometimes, but it's really comforting to know that we're never really alone!

**SO WHAT?** Why does it matter to God and to us?

### SCRIPTURE | Daniel 3 (The Fiery Furnace)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Dressed as a zookeeper, tell the Bible story from the zookeeper's perspective, reading from Daniel 3 when prompted. Prepare to show pictures of the following animals: [capybaras](#) and [sun bears](#). (For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)) You may choose to have a newspaper as a prop to hold your Bible behind and pretend you're reading the news as you read the Bible passage.

- It's another exciting day at the Babylon Zoo. *[Show pictures as you talk about the animals.]* The capybaras had their babies last night, and the sun bears set a climbing world record.
- And our animals aren't the only ones with big things happening this week!
- **Do you remember our guest from last week, Daniel, and his friends who were brought from Jerusalem to Babylon? Does anyone remember the names of Daniel's friends?**
- Well, the most incredible thing happened to Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego . . . it was the front page news of the Babylonian Times and I've got to tell you about it!
- *[Read Daniel 3:1–6.]*
  - King Nebuchadnezzar didn't follow God, and wanted everyone in his kingdom to bow to him instead! This was a problem for Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego because they were from Israel and had grown up knowing they were to worship only God. When they refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's statue, the king got really mad.
- *[Read Daniel 3:19–23.]*
  - You'd think this was the part of the story in which our three friends were gone for good. But God had another plan — one far greater than anything King Nebuchadnezzar could scheme up!
- *[Read Daniel 3:24–28.]*
  - Not only did God protect Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, a fourth person was walking around with them in the fire. It must have been an angel or something! When the three friends came out of the furnace, they weren't even singed or smelling like campfire like we sometimes do after roasting marshmallows. God saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and showed them they weren't alone!
- I know you all came to the zoo to look at some more animals but I hope this is the thing you remember most from today's visit! What a story!

### **BIG IDEA | I'm not alone — God is with me!**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up your space with the coconut tree, flamingo, and lion decorations like last week. Insert papers with the Big Ideas into the coconuts and attach them to the tree. Play the song, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," as you gather the kids. After the Big Idea reveal, play a [sound bite of a lion's roar](#). For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- It sounds like our biggest lion, Ari, is sleeping right now. We will try to wake him up in a bit, but for now, let's stay here and let him nap. While he's sleeping, we're going to talk about our Big Idea . . . but I wonder where we can find it. *[Look around for a few seconds and then grab a coconut off the tree.]* Let's crack this open and see what we find.
- *[Remove paper containing the Big Idea and read it out loud.]*
- **I'm not alone — God is with me!** I think it's time for Ari, the lion, to wake up! Let's shout — or should I say, roar — the Big Idea! Stand up and roar that **I'm not alone — God is with me!** *[Play a [sound bite of a lion's roar!](#)]*

### **VIDEO | Hear Me Roar, Episode 2**

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

### **VIDEO | Lions Stick Together**

- Lions are some of the most social creatures in the animal kingdom. Let's watch this video to learn more about how they choose to live life together in their pride.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Watch the video "Wild Inside the National Zoo: Lion Pride". For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- The lions are reminded they aren't alone because they have each other. They're also bonded with the zookeepers, who help them learn, grow, and conquer challenges along the way.

- In a similar way, God made us to be social creatures. We need each other.
  - When we're going through hard times, we need each other for support.
  - When we see people doing what we know is not right, we can help each other make the choice that would honor God.
  - When things are going really well, we need friends to celebrate with us.
  - God wired us to go through life together.
- We all want to know we aren't alone. We have amazing friends and family, but we also have God! God lives inside our hearts, so we literally are never alone! God sticks to us closer than a lion pride sticks together. God never leaves us!
- God has given us many people, like our friends and family, who love us and will help take care of us. Not only that, but God loves you and will take care of you too.
- **Who are some people in your life that show you God's love and care and show you that you're not alone?**

### ACTIVITY | Ant Race

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show a [picture of the ants](#) that build bridges. Then, have one kid come to the front, get on all fours, and try to balance a beach ball on their back. Then divide the kids into pairs, have them stand back-to-back and link arms. Place a beach ball between their backs and have them race around the room with the ball between their backs.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens compete in a three-legged relay race where they have to dribble the beach ball with their joined feet around the race course.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have kids line up in teams and have them pass the beach ball from one end of the line to the other. The last person then goes to the front of the line and passes it down the line. Keep going until the original first player returns to position, then have the team sit down to show that they have finished. Don't worry about making it a race or timing them but give them ample time to complete the activity.
- Now this next exhibit is not really an exhibit. It's an animal that we see all the time almost everywhere. **Can you guess what animal it might be?** It's ants!
- Normally, I don't like bugs of any kind, but this picture started to convince me ants might be awesome!
- *[Show image.]*
- Ants are able to accomplish amazing things because they are together. Sometimes, we may feel like we can't tackle a big task in front of us, but God can create a bridge! Oftentimes, God helps us conquer the impossible by giving us other people. One way we're reminded that God is with us is by noticing our friends and family members.
- We're going to race around the room carrying these beach balls on our backs. *[Have one kid come to the front, get on all fours, and try to balance the ball on their back.]* That seems pretty impossible, right? But now let's try it with two people working together!
- *[Divide the students into pairs.]* Each of you are going to race around the room with your partner, carrying the beach ball. Here's the catch: You can't use your hands or legs! You have to carry the ball between your backs! *[Have leaders place the ball between their backs to get them started, and start the race.]*
- Great job, everyone! What was impossible alone was possible when you worked together!

### SCRIPTURE | 2 Timothy 2:8–15

- The apostle, Paul, wrote the book of 2 Timothy while he was in a jail cell in Rome. He had been arrested for sharing the good news of Jesus. He knew his life was coming to an end, so he wrote a letter to his young friend, Timothy, encouraging him to keep being devoted to Jesus, even when things got hard.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read 2 Timothy 2:8–15.
- Did you notice what Paul did in the middle of his gut-wrenching moments in jail? He remembered Jesus, and how even death couldn't hold Jesus down!
- Although Jesus had returned to heaven, Paul wrote about the faithfulness of Jesus, who will always be faithful to us, no matter what. Isn't that incredible? Jesus will never leave our side. He has sent his Spirit to be our constant friend and guide! His love and constant presence with us isn't based on anything we do. It's just who he is!
- Paul was in chains, which means he was caged up and probably treated far worse than the animals at our zoo. But he knew that Jesus and God's Word could never be chained or locked up!
- In the good times and bad, you can count on the fact that **I'm not alone – God is with me!**

## NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

### ACTIVITY | Find the Animals

- Sometimes, it can be easy to forget that God is with us. In times when we feel overwhelmed, busy, nervous, or frustrated, our vision becomes a bit blurry and it may be difficult to feel that God is with us.
- The apostle Paul took the time to stop and remember that Jesus was with him. He chose to focus on Jesus and find him in the middle of his difficult situation. In a similar way, Jesus invites us to take the time to stop and look for Jesus.
- **Have you ever seen a "magic eye" picture?**
- At first glance, these images seem crazy and chaotic! It doesn't seem like there is anything there, but there are actually animals hidden inside! Let's see if we can find the animals in these "magic eye" pictures.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show kids some magic eye (stereogram) images, like these from "The Lion King" ([Image 1](#), [Image 1 answer](#), [Image 2](#), [Image 2 answer](#)). You can check out a tutorial [like this](#) before you do this with the kids.
- Some of you were able to see the animals, and even if you weren't that's okay! Sometimes our lives feel a lot like these pictures – wild and overwhelming! Even when we have a hard time seeing Jesus in the messy moments of life, we can trust that he is there. We're never alone!
- Let's say our Big Idea together: **I am not alone – God is with me!**

### ACTIVITY | Postcard from the Zoo

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid materials to make a card for a friend or family member, especially someone who is going through a difficult time. Consider providing postcard stamps for kids to take their cards home and mail once they've located the recipient's address.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide stickers or cut-out images and glue for friends who have difficulty writing.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Encourage preteens to send a text or video message, or set up a time to FaceTime their friend or family member.
- We've all felt alone at one time or another.
  - Maybe you've felt alone when you started attending a new school or joined a sports team.
  - Maybe you felt alone if your parents had to separate, or if your best friend moved away.
  - No one likes to feel alone. God often reminds us we aren't alone by giving us friends and family members to support and encourage us.
- Today, we've been reminded that we aren't alone – God is with us. So, let's take a few minutes and remind someone else they aren't alone.

- **Who is a friend or family member who may need some encouragement this week?**
- Write them a postcard from the zoo and remind them they aren't alone. God is with them and so are you.

### MEMORY VERSE | Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

- **"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him."**
- We've been running around like cheetahs so much today, we almost forgot to review our memory verse, Nahum 1:7! Let's do that right now . . . I feel like this is going to be a breeze because we'll be working together!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break the students into animal groups, assigning each group a portion of the verse. Have each group include something in their segment of the verse that has to do with their animal (noises, motions, etc.). After a few minutes, bring them back to recite the whole thing together, with each group saying their respective part. **(Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/Nahum1-7](http://growcurriculum.org/Nahum1-7).)**
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Keep in mind some friends may prefer to recite their portion of the memory verse from a piece of paper or a picture prompt, rather than memory.

### PRAYER

- God, thank you that I'm not alone. Even when I feel like there's no one to help me, I trust you are there. Thank you for my friends and family who remind me of your love. Help me be there to support and help others in the way you've helped me. Thank you for making impossible things possible. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- **Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not bow down to the gold statue?**
- **How do you think they felt when they were told they would be thrown into the fiery furnace?**
- **What do you think helped Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brave when they faced the flames?**
- **Read 2 Timothy 2:8–10. What do you think Paul meant when he said that "God's word is not chained (or bound)"?**
- **When was a time you felt alone?**
- **How did that make you feel? What did you do about it?**
- **When was a time you felt God was with you?**

### ACTIVITY | Tiny Zoo

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Lay out a large piece of butcher paper on a table for each group and give them a box of supplies for the day.
- We're not made to do life alone! God made us to be social creatures. We need each other and we need God. When we aren't alone, we feel safe, secure, and at home.
- We're going to continue working on our Tiny Zoo! Today, we're going to create homes for each of the animals by adding grass, ponds, and enclosures for each animal's exhibit!

# WEEK 2

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

I'm not alone – God is with me!

### BIBLE

**The Fiery Furnace:**  
Daniel 3; 2 Timothy 2:8-15

## QUESTIONS

- Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not bow down to the gold statue?
- How do you think they felt when they were told they would be thrown into the fiery furnace?
- What do you think helped Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brave when they faced the flames?
- Read 2 Timothy 2:8–10. What do you think Paul meant when he said that “God’s word is not chained (or bound)”?
- When was a time you felt alone?
- How did that make you feel? What did you do about it?
- When was a time you felt God was with you?

## ACTIVITY

Lay out a large piece of butcher paper on a table for each group and give them a box of supplies for the day. Scan QR code for a tutorial on how to make cardboard trees.

We’re not made to do life alone! God made us to be social creatures. We need each other and we need God. When we aren’t alone, we feel safe, secure, and at home.



We’re going to continue working on our Tiny Zoo! Today, we’re going to create homes for each of the animals by adding grass, ponds, and enclosures for each animal’s exhibit!

**MEMORY VERSE:** “The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble;  
and he knows those who trust in him.” — Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

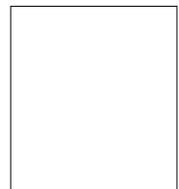
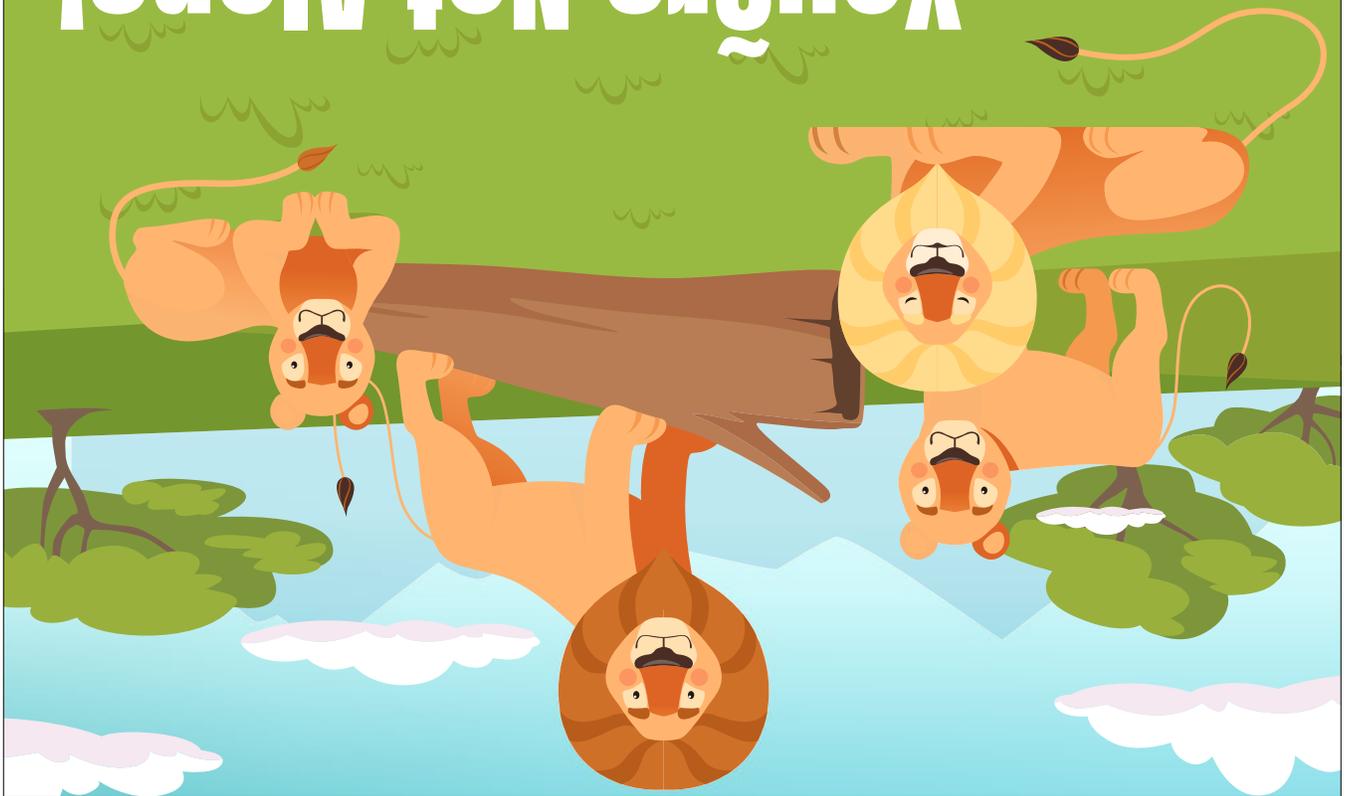
[Click here](#) for a memory verse sign language tutorial video you can share with your families and volunteers!

**BIG IDEA:** I'm not alone — God is with me!

**BIBLE:** The Fiery Furnace: Daniel 3; 2 Timothy 2:8-15



# You're Not Alone!

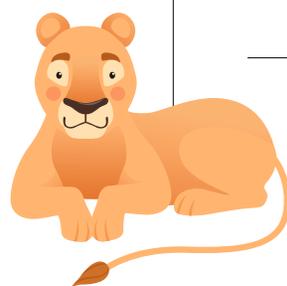


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**The Lord  
is good**



**a refuge  
in times of  
trouble**



**He cares  
for those**



**who trust  
in him**



# WEEK 3

## LESSON OVERVIEW



### BIG IDEA

I can keep learning – God is with me!

### BIBLE

**The Writing on the Wall:**  
Daniel 5; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

## STUFF FOR THIS WEEK

### TEACHING – WEEK 3

- ▶ [Shop & Prep List](#)
- ▶ [Teaching Videos](#)
- ▶ [Hacks for Preteens & Special Needs](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

### FAMILIES & VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ [Family Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer & Parent Emails](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer & Parent Hubs](#)
- ▶ [Series Promo Cards & Posters](#)
- ▶ [Marketing Checklist](#)
- ▶ [Social Media Posts & Captions](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS WEEK



### DESIGN

We made **lots of graphics** for you! Use them to create slides, social media posts, and more! You can find them in your [Graphics & Video folder.](#), along with a Style Guide for this series.



### CUSTOMIZE

You know your kids and ministry better than we do, so **you might want make some tweaks to this week's lesson.** Customize the lesson by editing the Word document in your series downloads or in the [Message Builder](#). Then customize this week's presentation in [SLIDR](#) by adding or adjusting the images and videos you need for this week's lesson. Finally, customize your teaching content in your [Volunteer and Parent Hubs](#) to share it with everyone's grown-ups!



### SHOP & PREP

**We made a list** of everything you'll need to make this week happen. Get your editable Shop & Prep List [right here.](#)



## HACK

If you're using Grow for your kids, you may want to make some tweaks to make it more age appropriate. **Get the Preteen Hacks** for Week 3 [here](#) and the **Special Needs Hacks** for Week 3 [here](#).



## COMMUNICATE

To make sure volunteers and families are in the loop, don't forget about these . . .

- ▶ [Parent & Volunteer Hubs](#)
- ▶ [Parent & Volunteer Emails](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Devotional](#)
- ▶ [Family Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Marketing Checklist](#)
- ▶ [Social Media Posts & Captions](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse](#)

## WEEK 3 HACKS FOR PRETEENS



### **REVISE**

To make this series more accessible for preteens, here's what to adjust . . .

#### **ACTIVITY | Crocodile Attack Game**

Challenge preteens to do this activity with a blindfold on. When anyone finds a card, have them hold it out to a leader who tells them whether it's a "roar" or an "attack" card.

#### **ACTIVITY | Zookeeper Observation**

Turn this into a challenge by adding [buzzers](#) and time limits for preteens' responses. Include a few general trivia questions also to make it more interesting.

### **REPLACE**

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

#### **SCRIPTURE | 2 Timothy 3:14–17**

Rather than reading out loud, help preteens relate to what it's like getting messages nowadays. You can connect your phone to a monitor and send text messages to another leader (rename them "Timothy" in your contacts for this) and copy/paste each verse from the Scripture into its own line of text message. Have the volunteer respond with emojis or a simple, "Thx bro" for added fun!

### **REMEMBER**

Even though this story might suggest otherwise, help preteens remember that God doesn't want to – and won't! – smite them for making mistakes. Talk about the countless amount of people in the Bible who messed up but God continued loving them. Help them focus on the Big Idea which is to keep learning and not to be frozen in fear.

## WEEK 3

### HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



#### REVISE

To make this series more accessible for kids with special needs, here's what to adjust . . .

##### **ACTIVITY | Animal I.D.**

Provide friends with a printout of yes or no questions to ask. Alternatively, flip the script and have other people provide hints to help them figure out what animal picture is on their back.

##### **ACTIVITY | Devour or Decline**

Place the items in clear sandwich bags so kids will know exactly what foods they will be choosing. You might also want to have extras of the popular items so everyone ends up with the food item they want.

##### **ACTIVITY | Crocodile Attack Game**

Have kids buddy up so that they can share the tasks of getting the cards out of the pool and opening them up.

#### REMEMBER

While we encourage pairing kids with special needs up with a peer or a leader, some kids might prefer working on their own instead of small groups. Provide the materials and space for such kids to complete the activity independently but make sure you check in often to see how they're doing and if they'd like to rejoin the large group at any time.

## WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

I can keep learning – God is with me!

### BIBLE

**The Writing on the Wall:**  
Daniel 5; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

## LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome back to our series, *Hear Me Roar!* I'm the zookeeper here at the Babylon Zoo, and you won't believe all the things that have happened since the last time you visited. I have so much to tell you on our zoo tour today!

### WHAT? What are we talking about today?

#### MUSIC | Worship

- **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!](#)
  - "Echo" (Elevation Worship)
  - "God Is Always With Us" (Lifetree Kids)
  - "I'm Trusting You" (Lifetree Kids)
  - "Not Afraid" (Rend Co. Kids)
  - "Journey of a Lifetime" (Kids on the Move)

#### ACTIVITY | Animal I.D.

- Have you ever wondered what happens when an animal gets loose? Let's play a game to find out how a lost animal finds their way back.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print a set of the Animal I.D. printable for your group and cut them out ahead of time. Without showing kids the animals on the cards before play begins, tape one I.D. card to the back of each kid's shirt. During game play, kids will walk around and ask each other yes or no questions to try to figure out what animal they are. Feel free to print out duplicates if you have a large group.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide friends with a printout of yes or no questions to ask. Alternatively, flip the script and have other people provide hints to help them figure out what animal picture is on their back.

- You each have an animal name on your back. You need to go around the room and ask each other yes or no questions in order to learn which animal you are! When you think you've figured out who you are, find a zookeeper and they'll help you get back to your exhibit!

### ACTIVITY | Devour or Decline

- One of my main jobs here at the zoo is to make sure the animals get fed! As you can imagine, there are some pretty wild food items in our cafeteria! Do you want check it out? I need some volunteers who want to eat like the animals today!
  - **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare for this game by placing food items specific to the animal that eats them in separate paper bags and labeling the bag with the name of the animal only (see below for ideas). Prepare enough bags for 3-4 volunteers to play up front or more for large groups who can play with a leader at each station. Show the first kid one of the bags you've prepared. Without opening it, they have to choose "devour" or "decline" based only on knowing which animal eats whatever is inside. If they decline, show them another bag and give them the choice again – but let them know that if they decline again, they will be stuck with the third bag you give them. Have them open the bag they end up with and show everyone what's inside. And of course, they don't have to devour it if they don't want to! Keep playing until all the bags are gone!*
    - Pandas: grapes and apples
    - Gorillas: broccoli and kale
    - Lions: hamburger
    - Meerkat: worms (give them gummy worms!)
    - Penguins: fish sticks
    - Hippos: lettuce and watermelon
    - Tiger: pulled pork
    - Owl: mouse (but make it chocolate mousse!)
    - Anteater: ants (raisins)
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Place the items in clear sandwich bags so kids will know exactly what foods they will be choosing. You might also want to have extras of the popular items so everyone ends up with the food item they want.*

### POLL | Upvote Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ahead of time, prepare strips of poster board that can adhere to a board using Velcro or magnets (here's [an example](#)). On each strip, write a challenge a kid might relate to – you might even invite the kids to add some of their own, however you can check out the list below for ideas. Display the first challenge. Then display the second. Have the kids upvote or downvote each challenge by giving a thumbs-up or thumbs-down, based on the previous options. Have them keep voting, until they've collectively ranked the challenges from easiest to hardest.*
  - Learning to tie your shoes.
  - Learning to play the piano.
  - Learning to shoot a free throw in basketball.
  - Memorizing the names of all 50 states.
  - Memorizing the 66 books of the Bible.
  - Learning to ride a unicycle.
  - Teaching a wild monkey to juggle.
- What are some of the hardest things you've ever learned to do? I remember that learning how to solve math word problems was a challenge!

- Let's imagine some challenges as a group and try to rank them from what we think would be easiest to what we think would be the hardest. We will do that for each one. If you think the newest option is easier than the one before it, give me a thumbs up! If you think it's harder, and should be moved down the list, give me a thumbs down!

### SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

#### SCRIPTURE | Daniel 5 (The Writing on the Wall)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Dressed as a zookeeper, tell the Bible story from the zookeeper's perspective. Today's story spans all of Daniel 5, but feel free to only read the parts out loud that work for your specific age group.*
- Phew! Sometimes walking around the zoo can get exhausting because it's so big! How about we catch our breath with some more news about what's been happening around here in Babylon? You can also read about these stories in the Bible.
- **Do you remember hearing about our friend Daniel, and how King Nebuchadnezzar made life difficult for him and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?**
  - King Nebuchadnezzar wanted all the power for himself and because of that he did things like bring Israelites like Daniel and his friends from their home in Jerusalem all the way here to Babylon so they could work for him.
  - Then, he made a big statue and said, "Everyone must worship this idol. If they don't, I'll have them thrown into a furnace!" And he wasn't kidding. When he found out Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship his statue, he punished them by putting them in the fire. But God protected them and they survived without having even a single hair singed!
- And even though King Nebuchadnezzar knew then and there that God was real and was more powerful than anything, he sadly went back to being his mean old self. One day he finally drove himself mad and couldn't be the king anymore.
- So, his son is now in charge. His son's name is also a mouthful — Belshazzar. And this might be hard to believe, but Belshazzar is even meaner than his father! Check this out.
- *[Read Daniel 5:1–17.]*
  - People remembered how wise Daniel was so when all of Belshazzar's own assistants couldn't figure out the message on the wall, they reminded the new king about Daniel. They brought Daniel in right away!
  - Belshazzar offered Daniel gifts and the opportunity to be in power himself. Daniel didn't want any of those rewards though. God gave him the wisdom to understand the message. He explained that the message came directly from God. Let's find out what happened next!
- *[Read Daniel 5:24–31.]*
  - The message God sent said that Belshazzar's days of ruling Babylon were numbered. That meant since he didn't honor God — even though he should have known better — the kingdom would be taken away from him and that he would die.
  - Then later last night, the message came true! Babylon is under new management now because the Medes and the Persians, who come from a different kingdom altogether, have taken over. The new guy in charge is named Darius. I really hope he learns from the mistakes of ol' King Neb and King Bel!

#### BIG IDEA | I can keep learning — God is with me!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up your space with the coconut tree, flamingo, and lion decorations like last week. Insert papers with the Big Ideas into the coconuts and attach them to the tree. Play the song, "[The Lion Sleeps Tonight](#)," as you gather the kids. After the Big Idea reveal, play a [sound bite of a lion's roar](#). For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*

- Well, Ari, the lion is sleeping again! So, let's hang out with the flamingos and crack open today's Big Idea. *[Grab a coconut off the tree and open it to find the Big Idea.]*
- *[Take out a piece of paper containing the Big Idea and read it out loud.]* **I can keep learning — God is with me!** Like Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar was stuck in his ways for a long time, but then he became open to learning about God. Daniel kept learning every step of the way. With God's help, we can keep learning too!
- Let's wake up Ari by roaring this Big Idea! **I can keep learning — God is with me!** *[Play a [sound bite of a lion's roar](#) as a response to the roar of the kids!]*

### VIDEO | Hear Me Roar, Episode 3

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

### VIDEO | Koko Learns Sign Language

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show the video "[Remembering the human side of Koko the gorilla](#)". For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- Animals are amazing creatures! Whether in captivity or in the world, animals are curious about their environments and learn to thrive in their different areas of the world!
- Koko learned sign language, formed meaningful human connections, learned to paint, and even expressed empathy and emotion. She didn't resist learning, or stop trying, just because something was out of her comfort zone. She lived with curiosity which led her to many unique experiences and beautiful friendships.
- We can keep learning too — because God is with us!

### ACTIVITY | Crocodile Attack Game

- We have a major problem in the Zoo Pridelands. The crocodiles have surrounded a flock of hornbills, and we need to work together to rescue the birds! You're all going to be honorary lions because crocodiles will run away at the sound of a lion's roar.
- **Let me hear you roar!**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show [this video clip](#) (end clip at 0:44) as a segue into the game. (For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)) Print the "roar" and "attack" cards, fold them in half, and glue the open edge of each card shut with a glue stick, then hide them in a kiddie pool filled with packing peanuts or shredded paper.*
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Challenge preteens to do this activity with a blindfold on. When anyone finds a card, have them hold it out to a leader who tells them whether it's a "roar" or an "attack" card.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Have kids buddy up so that they can share the tasks of getting the cards out of the pool and opening them up.*
- I think we need to learn to be even louder to send the crocodiles running!
- In this watering hole, there are six "attack" cards and six "roar" cards. Each of you will take a turn to dig through and find one card.
  - If you find a "roar" card, awesome! We are one step closer to chasing the crocodiles away from these poor, frightened hornbills.
  - If you find an "attack" card, oh no! The crocodiles are advancing and one "roar" card must be returned to the watering hole. If there are no "roar" cards yet, you don't have to do anything.
  - The goal is for our whole group to find all six "roar" cards before you draw out the six "attack" cards!
- Hopefully, you learned to feel for the cards in the watering hole that felt like they were already opened because those were probably the "roar" cards that were returned.
- When we play a game, we first learn the rules, then we develop strategies on how to get better at it, right? In the same way, in our lives, we might get ourselves into trouble sometimes but we can be patient with ourselves as we figure things out.

- That's why it's encouraging to know, **I can keep learning – God is with me!**

## SCRIPTURE | 2 Timothy 3:14–17

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read 2 Timothy 3:14–17.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Rather than reading out loud, help preteens relate to what it's like getting messages nowadays. You can connect your phone to a monitor and send text messages to another leader (rename them "Timothy" in your contacts for this) and copy/paste each verse from the Scripture into its own line of text message. Have the volunteer respond with emojis or a simple, "Thx bro" for added fun!

- Last week, we read a part of Paul's letter to his friend, Timothy. Paul knew that this would be his last letter to Timothy, so he wanted to cheer Timothy on!
- But he didn't say that Timothy had to be perfect. Instead of trying to be perfect, we can turn to the Bible, which will help us learn and give us what we need every step of the way.
- Paul told Timothy to continue in the things he was learning – because that's one of the most important ways to continue growing as followers of Jesus.
  - When Jesus was on earth, he mentored his disciples. He didn't give them a list of instructions and then send them out to do mission impossible. No! He helped them learn by simply saying, "Follow me."
  - But even the guys who were Jesus' closest friends got mixed up sometimes. They misunderstood Jesus' words and had trouble doing the things Jesus taught them to do. But Jesus didn't give up on them. He was patient and continued to invite them to follow him.
- When we read the Bible, we can learn from Jesus as we read about his life, his teachings, and his love for others. Jesus doesn't expect us to "have it all together." He knows that growing in our faith will be something we do our whole lives. He simply invites us to keep learning and to follow Jesus one day at a time.
- What a gift it is to know that **I can keep learning – God is with me!**

## NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

### ACTIVITY | Zookeeper Observation

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have a leader, pretending to be a zookeeper, tell the kids a narrative about the animals. Afterward, ask the kids follow-up questions to see what they remember. Be sure to have the zookeeper dress in a costume that involves flashy socks, zoo-related buttons, and a bandana. Show the following pictures of the lions as you share the story below: [Ari](#), [Nala](#), and [the three cubs](#).
- **PRETEEN HACK:** Turn this into a challenge by adding [buzzers](#) and time limits for preteens' responses. Include a few general trivia questions also to make it more interesting.
- The lions are my favorite creatures at the zoo, so I want to tell you some facts about our pride here. Listen closely and learn as much as you can about the lions.
  - Ari, our largest male lion, is the leader of the pride. Ari is eight years old and came to our zoo when he was two years old. Ari is the Hebrew word for lion, so that is how he got his name!
  - Nala is the oldest lioness in our pride. She weighs 313 pounds, and her birthday is March 7.
  - Ari and Nala have three cubs: Ada, Kojo, and Leon. They were born in the same litter and are three months old. The lions love to sleep. They sleep for about 20 hours a day!
- Did you catch all of that? Let's see how much you remember! [Ask questions below and give kids a chance to respond.]
  - **How old was Ari when he first came to the zoo?**

- How did Ari get his name?
  - When is Nala's birthday?
  - What were the names of Nala and Ari's cubs?
  - How many hours a day do they sleep?
  - What color were the zookeeper's socks?
  - What color was the bandana in their pocket?
  - What pins did they have on their shirt?
  - On what wrist were they wearing their watch?
  - What were they holding in their hands?
- I'm sure that you learned a lot about the lions, but you may not have realized much about the other details. That's okay! We can keep learning. Let's try again!
  - *[Have the zookeeper come back and share the exact same information. Ask the kids the same questions again.]* Great job! You nailed it this time!
  - God doesn't expect us to have everything figured out right away. God is patient and gives us many opportunities to grow and learn!
  - **I can keep learning – God is with me!**

### RESPONSE | The Search

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using the word search graphic provided, project the image on a whiteboard for kids to work together as a group, or print it poster-size to work on in groups of three or four.
- We read 2 Timothy 3:14–17 today. It's jam-packed full of awesome words that help us keep learning. Look for those words in the word search on the board. If you see one, raise your hand, and I'll invite you to come and circle it on the screen!
- **Which words stand out to you the most?**
- Say a short prayer using those words, asking God to help you keep searching for God's wisdom and guidance as you learn every day.

### MEMORY VERSE | Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

- **"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him."**
- I've been thinking a lot about our memory verse. There have been so many changes and wild events happening here at Zoo Babylon. I'm thankful that God is with me. **Let's keep learning our memory verse together!**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sign the Bible verse one word at a time, and have the kids repeat the motions and words after you. **(Don't forget to check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/Nahum1-7](http://growcurriculum.org/Nahum1-7).)**

### PRAYER

- God, you are the Creator of the world, and you are always at work. I don't want to stay in my comfort zone when it comes to growing with you. I want to keep learning instead of thinking I already know everything. Thank you for being the most kind and patient teacher and for reminding me I don't have to be perfect. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- What happened to King Nebuchadnezzar?

- What did the handwriting on the wall say?
- What happened to King Belshazzar after he threw the big party?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:14–17. What are the things that the Bible does to help us learn?
- Who is the best teacher or coach you've ever had and why?
- What is God teaching you about right now?
- What are some things you can do to learn more about God this week?

### ACTIVITY | Tiny Zoo

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Provide kids with resources to continue building their tiny zoo. Offer supplies to create a ticket booth and grand entrance. LEGO people and small figurines make fantastic visitors!*
- Let's keep building our zoo! Our zoo has grown quite a bit in the last few weeks, and it's going to keep expanding!
- People love to visit the zoo because they love to learn about the animals! So, today, we're going to add zoo guests, ticket booths, and a grand entrance to our zoo.
- **What are some things you have been learning in your life lately? How do you think God might use that in your life?**

# WEEK 3

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

I can keep learning — God is with me!

### BIBLE

**The Writing on the Wall:**  
Daniel 5; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

### QUESTIONS

- What happened to King Nebuchadnezzar?
- What did the handwriting on the wall say?
- What happened to King Belshazzar after he threw the big party?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:14–17. What are the things that the Bible does to help us learn?
- Who is the best teacher or coach you've ever had and why?
- What is God teaching you about right now?
- What are some things you can do to learn more about God this week?

### ACTIVITY

Provide kids with resources to continue building their tiny zoo. Offer supplies to create a ticket booth and grand entrance (scan QR code for an idea of what it might look like). LEGO people and small figurines make fantastic visitors!



Let's keep building our zoo! Our zoo has grown quite a bit in the last few weeks, and it's going to keep expanding!

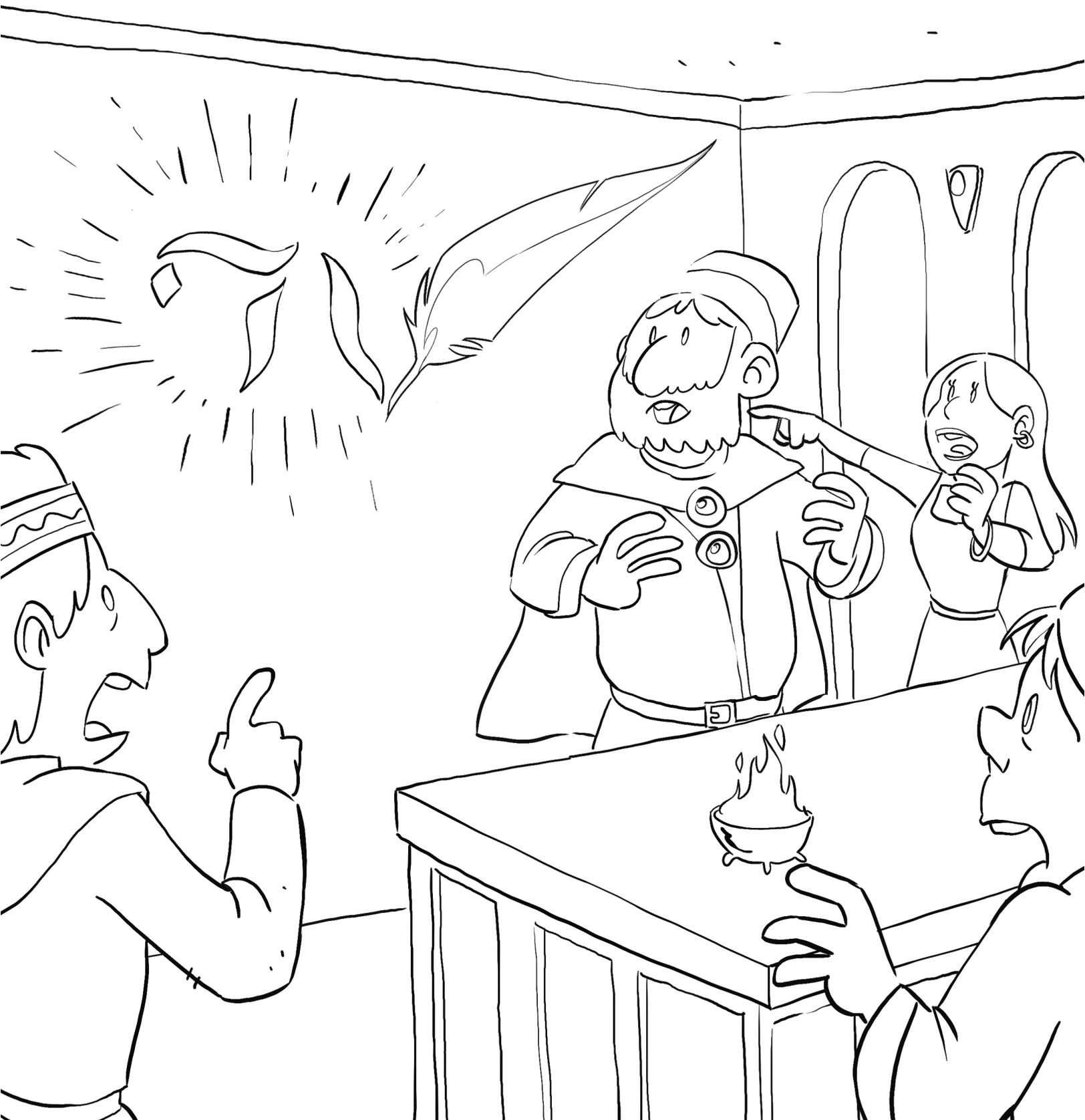
People love to visit the zoo because they love to learn about the animals! So, today, we're going to add zoo guests, ticket booths, and a grand entrance to our zoo.

**What are some things you have been learning in your life lately? How do you think God might use that in your life?**

**MEMORY VERSE:** "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble;  
and he knows those who trust in him." — Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

[Click here](#) for a memory verse sign language tutorial video you can share with your families and volunteers!

**BIG IDEA:** I can keep learning — God is with me!  
**BIBLE: The Writing on the Wall:** Daniel 5; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 12:28-29

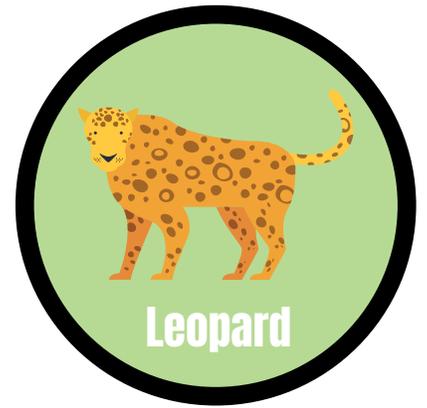




**Panda**



**Orangutan**



**Leopard**



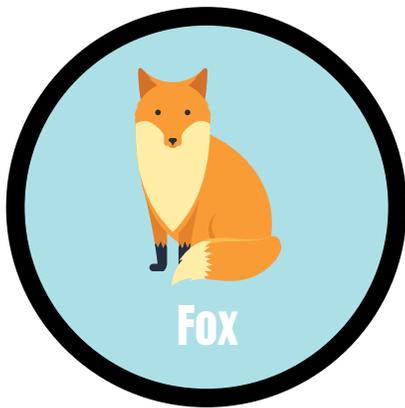
**Beaver**



**Lion**



**Grizzly Bear**



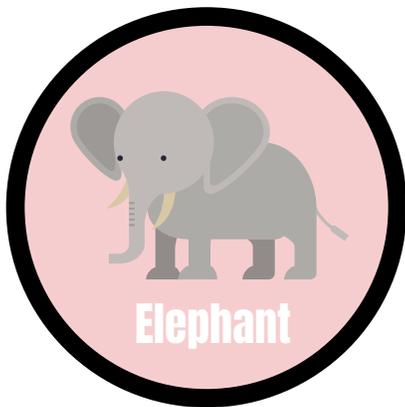
**Fox**



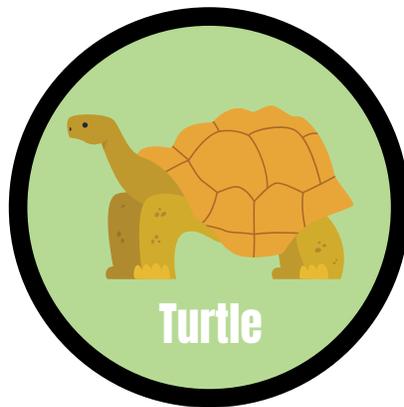
**Camel**



**Alligator**



**Elephant**



**Turtle**



**Giraffe**



**Hippo**



**Cobra**



**Koala**



**Rhino**



**Zebra**



**Otter**



**Penguin**



**Polar Bear**



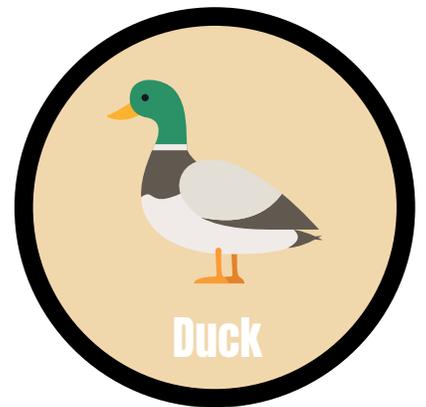
**Reindeer**



**Tiger**



**Sloth**



**Duck**



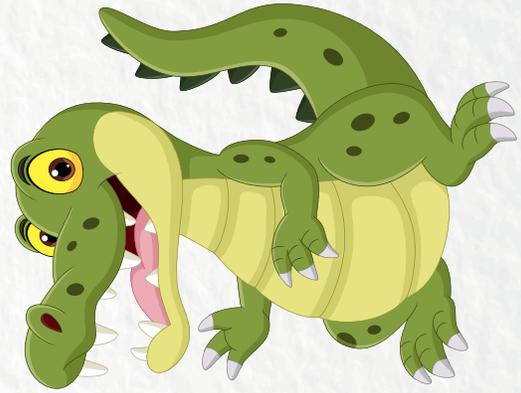
**attack!**



**attack!**



**attack!**



**attack!**



**attack!**



**attack!**



**roar!**



**roar!**



**roar!**



**roar!**



**roar!**



**roar!**

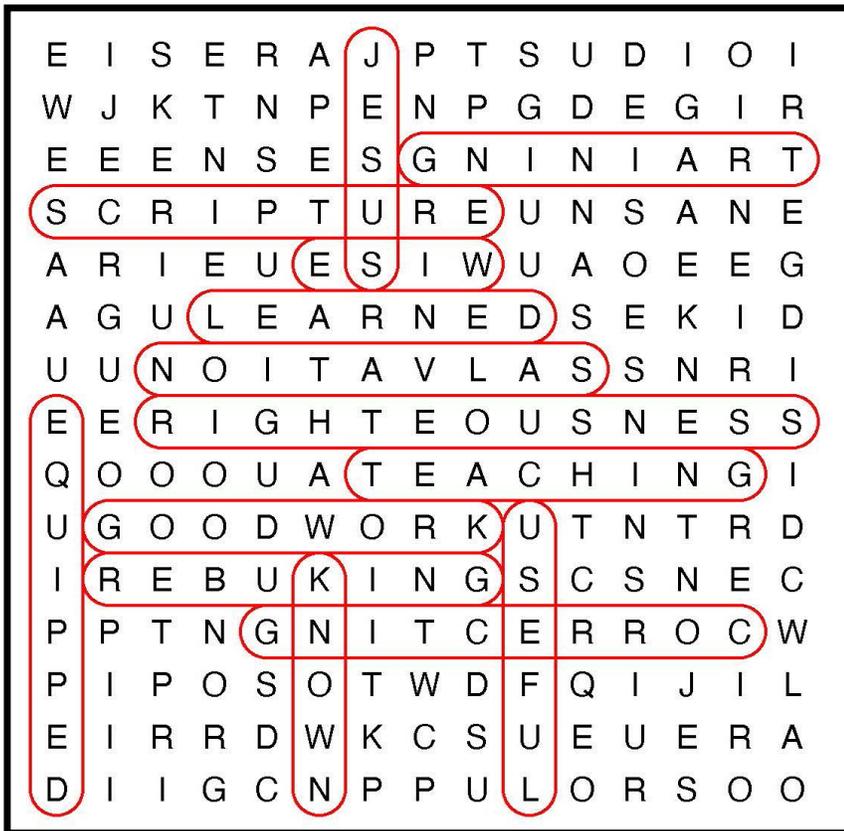
# THE SEARCH

E I S E R A J P T S U D I O I  
W J K T N P E N P G D E G I R  
E E E N S E S G N I N I A R T  
S C R I P T U R E U N S A N E  
A R I E U E S I W U A O E E G  
A G U L E A R N E D S E K I D  
U U N O I T A V L A S S N R I  
E E R I G H T E O U S N E S S  
Q O O O U A T E A C H I N G I  
U G O O D W O R K U T N T R D  
I R E B U K I N G S C S N E C  
P P T N G N I T C E R R O C W  
P I P O S O T W D F Q I J I L  
E I R R D W K C S U E U E R A  
D I I G C N P P U L O R S O O

But as for you, continue in what you have **learned** and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have **known** the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you **wise** for **salvation** through faith in Christ **Jesus**. All **Scripture** is God-breathed and is **useful** for **teaching, rebuking, correcting** and **training** in **righteousness**, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly **equipped** for every **good work**.

– 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NIV)

## THE SEARCH (ANSWERS)



# WEEK 4

## LESSON OVERVIEW



### BIG IDEA

I'm not afraid – God is with me!

### BIBLE

**Daniel in the Lions' Den:**  
Daniel 6; 2 Timothy 4:16-18

## STUFF FOR THIS WEEK

### TEACHING – WEEK 4

- ▶ [Shop & Prep List](#)
- ▶ [Teaching Videos](#)
- ▶ [Hacks for Preteens & Special Needs](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

### FAMILIES & VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ [Family Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer & Parent Emails](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer & Parent Hubs](#)
- ▶ [Series Promo Cards & Posters](#)
- ▶ [Marketing Checklist](#)
- ▶ [Social Media Posts & Captions](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS WEEK



### DESIGN

We made **lots of graphics** for you! Use them to create slides, social media posts, and more! You can find them in your [Graphics & Video folder.](#), along with a Style Guide for this series.



### CUSTOMIZE

You know your kids and ministry better than we do, so **you might want make some tweaks to this week's lesson.** Customize the lesson by editing the Word document in your series downloads or in the [Message Builder](#). Then customize this week's presentation in [SLIDR](#) by adding or adjusting the images and videos you need for this week's lesson. Finally, customize your teaching content in your [Volunteer and Parent Hubs](#) to share it with everyone's grown-ups!



### SHOP & PREP

**We made a list** of everything you'll need to make this week happen. Get your editable Shop & Prep List [right here.](#)



## HACK

If you're using Grow for your kids, you may want to make some tweaks to make it more age appropriate. **Get the Preteen Hacks** for Week 4 [here](#) and the **Special Needs Hacks** for Week 4 [here](#).



## COMMUNICATE

To make sure volunteers and families are in the loop, don't forget about these . . .

- ▶ [Parent & Volunteer Hubs](#)
- ▶ [Parent & Volunteer Emails](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Devotional](#)
- ▶ [Family Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Marketing Checklist](#)
- ▶ [Social Media Posts & Captions](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse](#)

## WEEK 4 HACKS FOR PRETEENS



### REVISE

To make this series more accessible for preteens, here's what to adjust . . .

#### **ACTIVITY | Lion, Zebra, Mosquito**

Instead of having the kid who loses sit out, have them form a train behind the winner and follow them around as they face off with other players. If their train loses, then the entire train now follows the new winner. Continue playing until there's an epic showdown between the two leaders of each train!

#### **ACTIVITY | Porcupine Tag**

Have each preteen write their name on a clothespin then drop it into a bag. Mix it up and have them draw out a clothespin that doesn't have their name on it . . . that person is their target. Throughout the day, they have to discreetly get the clothespin on their target's clothes without getting detected. Once pinned, the target hands over their clothespin to the person who pinned them, giving them a new target to pursue. Designate safe zones (e.g., restrooms) and times (e.g., Bible story time) when people cannot be tagged. See how many kids get pinned throughout the day!

### REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

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

Provide small groups with a small dry erase board and markers prior to sharing the Bible story. After reading each passage, ask "And then what?" Ask the preteens to predict what happens next by writing it on the dry erase board. Select volunteers to share their responses.

#### **VIDEO | "Don't You Worry About a Thing"**

Create a playlist of popular, clean songs. Explain that one preteen will hear a popular song through headphones and will lipsync the song as it plays. Challenge the others to guess the name of the song. Continue as time permits.

### REMEMBER

Remind preteens that some fear is okay and not a response they need to suppress. Fear sometimes protects us from danger. Encourage preteens to confront the things they are afraid of and why those fears are there. Additionally, discuss the importance of reverent fear and how we should be in awe of a holy God.

## WEEK 4

### HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



#### **REVISE**

To make this series more accessible for kids with special needs, here's what to adjust . . .

##### **ACTIVITY | Lion, Zebra, Mosquito**

Rather than having friends turn around, allow them to face each other and close their eyes as they do their animal.

##### **POLL | Would You Rather?**

In addition to saying the choices out loud, find corresponding images to show for each question.

##### **RESPONSE | Fight or Flight Bright**

This is a great opportunity to anticipate those who may be uncomfortable in sudden dark places. Ask for a friend who will volunteer to assist and be “in charge” of the light.

#### **REPLACE**

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

##### **ACTIVITY | Siberian Hide and Seek**

For some kids, the camouflage version might be confusing. Consider swapping this activity out for a regular game of Hide & Seek or even use action figures to hide around the room to talk about blending in with the environment.

#### **REMEMBER**

For some kids with special needs, fear stems from anxiety. You can reduce some of that load by letting families of kids with special needs know ahead of time about what activities are coming up in the following weeks. Give them time to prepare their kids for the questions they might be asked and what kinds of games they might participate in.

## WEEK 4 LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

I'm not afraid — God is with me!

### BIBLE

**Daniel in the Lions' Den:**  
Daniel 6; 2 Timothy 4:16-18

## LARGE GROUP TIME

Here we are for another week of *Hear Me Roar* fun at the Babylon Zoo. Everyone is a little wound up today because of the crazy thing that happened last night — but more about that later. It was pretty wild! And here's a little teaser: it has something to do with my favorite zoo animals. Lions!

### WHAT? What are we talking about today?

#### MUSIC | Worship

- **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!](#)
  - "Echo" (Elevation Worship)
  - "God Is Always With Us" (Lifetree Kids)
  - "I'm Trusting You" (Lifetree Kids)
  - "Not Afraid" (Rend Co. Kids)
  - "Journey of a Lifetime" (Kids on the Move)

#### ACTIVITY | Lion, Zebra, Mosquito

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This is a twist on "Rock, Paper, Scissors." Divide the kids into pairs and have them play three times. The winner continues, while the kid who lost is out. Continue the game until there is one winner.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Instead of having the kid who loses sit out, have them form a train behind the winner and follow them around as they face off with other players. If their train loses, then the entire train now follows the new winner. Continue playing until there's an epic showdown between the two leaders of each train!
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Rather than having friends turn around, allow them to face each other and close their eyes as they do their animal.

- Creatures can wreak havoc on each other in the wild! Even the smallest animal can cause problems for the King of the Jungle! Have you ever been bitten by a mosquito? It's horrible! I bet mosquitoes scare big lions too!
- Today, we're going to play Lion, Zebra, Mosquito. It's like Rock, Paper, Scissors! A lion beats a zebra. A zebra beats a mosquito. A mosquito beats a lion. You're going to stand back to back with a partner, and in your mind, choose your creature. When I count to three, you'll turn around and display your choice!
  - For the lion, hold your hands up beside your face and roar!
  - For the zebra, kick one foot backward, because zebras are known for their powerful hind legs!
  - For the mosquito, hold up your pointer finger in front of your nose!
- Let's play!

### ACTIVITY | Porcupine Tag

- Here at the Babylon Zoo, our porcupines are playful and fun, but they can be a bit prickly! Today, we're going to play "Porcupine Tag," and you will get a taste of what it's like to be in their shoes!
- You will each get "three quills" clipped to the upper back of your shirt. The goal is for you to protect your own quills while trying to take quills from others.
  - If you take a quill from another person, clip it to your own shirt.
  - While you're clipping on new pins, kneel on one knee. When you're on your knee, you can't be "tagged."
  - As soon as you get your clothespins on, you're back in the game.
  - If you lose your clothespins, you're out. The last one with clothespins on their back wins!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Clip three clothespins to the upper part of each kids' shirt.*
- **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have each preteen write their name on a clothespin then drop it into a bag. Mix it up and have them draw out a clothespin that doesn't have their name on it . . . that person is their target. Throughout the day, they have to discreetly get the clothespin on their target's clothes without getting detected. Once pinned, the target hands over their clothespin to the person who pinned them, giving them a new target to pursue. Designate safe zones (e.g., restrooms) and times (e.g., Bible story time) when people cannot be tagged See how many kids get pinned throughout the day!*
- It seems like you always had to watch your back, right? Someone was always out to get you! Yikes!
- Today's Bible story is about how some people were out to get Daniel but instead of watching his back, he trusted that God has his!

### POLL | Would You Rather?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your program, designate one end of the room as the "Butterfly Garden," and the other as the "Otter Pool." Point to each side to represent each of the answer choices.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *In addition to saying the choices out loud, find corresponding images to show for each question.*
- I'm going to ask you a series of "Would You Rather" questions. If you choose the first option, flutter over to the butterfly garden. If you choose the second option, splash into the otter pool!
  - **Would you rather steal wild berries from a grizzly bear or swim in waters with barracudas?**
  - **Would you rather try to outrun a rhino or an alligator?**
  - **Would you rather run into a rattlesnake or a wolf in the wilderness?**
  - **Would you rather find a tarantula or a scorpion in your house?**
  - **Would you rather clean the teeth of a jaguar or a shark?**
  - **Would you rather tiptoe into a cave of sleeping bats or a den of sleeping lions?**
- Those were some tough choices to make! Don't worry, though, none of our exhibits at the zoo will have you do anything dangerous like that . . . that's pretty scary!
- Wait 'til you hear today's Bible story though!

**SO WHAT?** Why does it matter to God and to us?

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Dressed as a zookeeper, tell the Bible story from the zookeeper's perspective. Today's story spans all of Daniel 6, but feel free to only read the parts out loud that work for your specific age group. Show images of lions (like [this](#)) before you begin.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Provide small groups with a small dry erase board and markers prior to sharing the Bible story. After reading each passage, ask "And then what?" Ask the preteens to predict what happens next by writing it on the dry erase board. Select volunteers to share their responses.
- Welcome to the lion exhibit! Have I mentioned already that I love lions? They are majestic and strong and I find it fascinating that they hunt together as a group. Sorry, as a pride.
- And lions play a big part in the story I'm about to tell you today. Maybe you already heard, but last night something wild happened in the kingdom – and I don't mean at the zoo!
- Do you remember our friend, Daniel, who stood up to King Nebuchadnezzar and shared God's wisdom with King Belshazzar? Well, last night, he had a run-in with our newest king, King Darius. Let me tell you about it! It all started a few days ago . . .
- *[Read Daniel 6:1–9.]*
  - These men who served the king were so jealous of Daniel, they wanted to find a way to get rid of him! But that didn't stop Daniel. He was committed to following God and chose to do what was right even when it was hard.
- *[Read Daniel 6:10–16.]*
  - So, Daniel was put in the lions' den and he stayed there all night long. Can you imagine what those lions must have thought? "Hey, free dinner!" I mean, I work with lions a lot at the zoo and when it's feeding time, they're unstoppable!
- **How do you think Daniel felt being trapped with the lions?**
- *[Read Daniel 6:19–22.]*
- We've seen all kinds of things here in Babylon, but this miracle is really exciting! Because of God rescuing Daniel, King Darius and others in the kingdom have come to realize that God is the one who rescues and saves!
- Just look at what Darius said after pulling Daniel out of the lions' den:
- *[Read Daniel 6:26–27.]*
- I bet Daniel was pretty afraid down there in the lions' den. He might have even felt afraid when he made the hard choice to pray to God when it was against the law. But God was with Daniel even when things seemed scary.

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up your space with the coconut tree, flamingo, and lion decorations like last week. Insert papers with the Big Ideas into the coconuts and attach them to the tree. Play the song, "[The Lion Sleeps Tonight](#)," as you gather the kids. After the Big Idea reveal, play a [sound bite of a lion's roar](#). For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- Did you hang out by the lion exhibit today? You must have heard all about how God saved Daniel from the lions last night! Daniel was in a pretty scary situation, but he trusted in God! As those lions approached him, he may have started to feel afraid! But then, he saw the angel show up! God saved him from the lions and took away his fear.
- Let's check out today's Big Idea.

- [Take out a piece of paper containing the Big Idea and read it out loud.] **I'm not afraid – God is with me!**
- Those lions have some pretty big roars, but so do we! Let's roar our Big Idea together: **I'm not afraid – God is with me!** [Play a [sound bite of a lion's roar](#) as a response to the roar of the kids!]

### VIDEO | Hear Me Roar, Episode 4

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

### VIDEO | The Elusive Pangolin

- **Have you ever seen a pangolin?** They're amazing! They're like giant anteaters who are mostly blind, and they have no teeth! They roam around at night, looking for tasty ants to slurp up with their sticky tongues, but unfortunately, they are hunted at night too. Let's see what they do when they're afraid.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the [video](#) "Meet the Pangolin | Night on Earth".
- When they're afraid, these small creatures roll up into a ball to defend themselves! Even massive hunters, like lions, can't penetrate their thick scales. They're covered and protected!
- Like the pangolin, we may encounter circumstances where we feel in danger or scared. We may even feel like our strength doesn't compare to what is causing us to feel threatened. Yet, just like the pangolin, we're covered! We may not have scaly skin, but God is with us.
- God provides everything we need in the moments when we feel most at risk. God covers us and protects us.
- Because God is with us, we don't have to be afraid!

### ACTIVITY | Siberian Hide and Seek

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this camouflage version](#) of "Hide & Seek." Play music and let the kids run and dance with the music. Continue playing until only one kid remains. Show [this image](#) of a Siberian snow leopard.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For some kids, the camouflage version might be confusing. Consider swapping this activity out for a regular game of Hide & Seek or even use action figures to hide around the room to talk about blending in with the environment.
- When animals are afraid, they often blend into their environments. They camouflage themselves in order to hide from predators. In fact, one of our snow leopards got spooked by the howl of a wolf, and she hid up against the white wall of her enclosure for hours!
- In the wild, the snow leopards are amazing at blending in with the cold terrain in their homelands, like the Siberian mountains in Russia.
- We're going to play a game of "Siberian Hide and Seek." When I shout "camouflage," I will close my eyes and count to ten. All of you snow leopards will have ten seconds to find somewhere around the room to hide and camouflage yourself. I will remain where I am standing, and will not move, but I will search for you all around the room for twenty seconds. If I see you, you've been caught, and you are out!
- If I haven't found you after the twenty seconds, I will yell "nomad!" At that point, it's safe for you to come out and roam around your territory again. After I yell "nomad," I will count to five, and stand here with my eyes closed. The first person to reach me in those five seconds while I have my eyes closed, is the winner!

### SCRIPTURE | 2 Timothy 4:16–18

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read 2 Timothy 4:16–18.
- In the final part of his letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul shared about how lonely he was. He felt deserted and alone. He even talked about the "lion's mouth," which is someone or something that was a major threat to him. It could have been a violent leader in Rome, or some other physical threat to his well-being. Yet through it all, even when he was afraid and none of his friends were with him, Paul trusted that God was there.

- Paul trusted God because he knew about Jesus.
  - After Jesus overcame death, he went back to visit his friends. When it was time for him to return to heaven, Jesus' disciples were afraid and overwhelmed. They didn't know how to face a world filled with pain and anger without him!
  - In this moment, Jesus told them he would always be with them, and that he would never leave them. This didn't take away the threats, conflicts, or challenges, but Jesus' words made them feel brave, instead of afraid.
- Even though Paul didn't hear these words from Jesus himself, he knew that the promise Jesus made to all his friends applied to him, too. So as Paul was in his prison cell, he displayed great courage because he trusted that Jesus was there.
- We, too, can be brave because Jesus is with us! Let's say the Big Idea again together: **I'm not afraid – God is with me!**

### NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

#### VIDEO | "Don't You Worry About a Thing"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show this clip (or a part of it): "[Meena Sings](#)" from the movie "Sing". For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Create a playlist of popular, clean songs. Explain that one preteen will hear a popular song through headphones and will lipsync the song as it plays. Challenge the others to guess the name of the song. Continue as time permits.
- At the beginning of the clip, Meena was nervous. She wasn't sure if she could go on stage and sing because she was terrified. In that moment, Meena froze.
- Maybe some of you have experienced stage fright too. Or maybe you have been afraid of a scene in a movie, or nervous about a test at school.
- When we get nervous, our bodies react. Our palms get sweaty, our hearts beat fast, and our stomachs feel like they're in knots. This is our body's way of trying to protect us, but sometimes, our bodies have a hard time distinguishing between a charging grizzly bear and our first day on a new sports team. Our worries and anxieties rise up and we feel paralyzed, like Meena did as she hid backstage.
- **What changed for Meena? What gave her the courage to perform?**
- She knew she wasn't alone! Her friends and family members believed in her even more than she believed in herself. She stepped out of her comfort zone and into the spotlight. As she shared her beautiful voice with the crowd, her fears subsided because she knew she had people supporting her and cheering her on.
- Meena's story is kind of like our stories! God understands that we have fears. God doesn't expect us to be superheroes who are never scared! Instead, God reminds us that we're believed in, supported, and never alone! We can face our fears and conquer hard things because God is with us.

#### RESPONSE | Fight or Flight Bright

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get a tri-fold black poster board and drill small holes, the size of a glow stick's width, in the board. Place the board on a table during your program. As you talk, place glow sticks in the holes on the poster board.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** This is a great opportunity to anticipate those who may be uncomfortable in sudden dark places. Ask for a friend who will volunteer to assist and be "in charge" of the light.
- Think of one thing you're afraid of right now. Maybe it's an upcoming move to a new town or a different school. Maybe it's a kid at school who's unkind, or the fear of not doing well on a test, or natural things like the dark or hairy bugs. All of those situations can be scary and uncomfortable!

- Whenever we come across a scary situation, our bodies automatically try to respond by choosing fight or flight – that means, we either try to stick it out or we run away. Animals have this response, too, like when they're being hunted by predators.
- Think about a time when you were afraid in the past.
  - **Did you try to get out of the situation quickly?**
  - **Or did you fight against being afraid with words or actions?**
  - **Or maybe you just froze?**
  - **How would that situation have changed if you had realized that God was with you?**
- *[Point to the black poster board as you dim the lights in the room.]* Right now, this board seems really dark, doesn't it? *[Hold up a glow stick.]* When we put this glow stick into the board, it brings about light.
- The same goes for us. In the moments when we start to feel scared, we can trust that God is with us. His light is stronger than the darkness. *[Give each kid a glow stick.]* As you plug in your light, think of the situation that's causing you to feel fearful and anxious. Then, say the Big Idea out loud: **I'm not afraid – God is with me.**

### MEMORY VERSE | Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

- **"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him."**
- Let's pretend it's night time and we are animal prey trying to sneak away from the predator while saying our memory verse.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This is a variation of "Red Light Green Light" where everyone starts against the wall. Have one kid or leader be the predator who faces a wall as they say "night time!" During this time, kids have to walk backwards away from the predator but with each step they take, they have to say one word of the memory verse. When the predator turns around and says "day time!" everyone has to freeze. Anyone caught moving has to go back to the wall next to the predator and start over. The goal is for everyone to finish saying the memory verse while walking away from the wall without getting caught! (Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/Nahum1-7](http://growcurriculum.org/Nahum1-7).)*

### PRAYER

- God, you have promised to always be with me. I don't have to be afraid of lions, bullies, taking tests, or the dark. And even if we're afraid, we know you will give us the courage to handle whatever we might be facing. Just like you were with Daniel and Paul, you're with me. I can be brave because you're standing beside me. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- **Why was Daniel thrown into the lion's den?**
- **What do you think made Daniel brave when he faced the lions?**
- **What did Darius decide to do after Daniel came out of the den without a scratch?**
- **Read 2 Timothy 4:17b–18. How is Paul's suffering similar to Daniel's situation with the lions?**
- **When are some times you might need to overcome a fear?**
- **What's one way you can be brave because you know that God is with you?**
- **What kinds of words would help someone who is afraid not be afraid anymore?**

### ACTIVITY | Tiny Zoo

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Get out the tiny zoo your group has been working on throughout the series, and provide kids with supplies to create shelters and signs for the animal enclosures.*
- Let's keep working on our tiny zoo! We're almost done. It's really coming together!
- We learned today that we can say **I'm not afraid — God is with me!**
- When animals are scared, they seek shelter. Shelters are places of refuge that make you feel safe when you may be afraid. So, let's create enclosures and areas of rest for the animals within their exhibits.
- Sometimes, I feel afraid when I'm lost. I think we should also help our visitors be brave in the zoo by creating signposts, so they always know where to go.

# WEEK 4

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

I'm not afraid – God is with me!

### BIBLE

**Daniel in the Lions' Den:**  
Daniel 6; 2 Timothy 4:16-18

## QUESTIONS

- Why was Daniel thrown into the lion's den?
- What do you think made Daniel brave when he faced the lions?
- What did Darius decide to do after Daniel came out of the den without a scratch?
- Read 2 Timothy 4:17b–18. How is Paul's suffering similar to Daniel's situation with the lions?
- When are some times you might need to overcome a fear?
- What's one way you can be brave because you know that God is with you?
- What kinds of words would help someone who is afraid not be afraid anymore?

## ACTIVITY

Get out the tiny zoo your group has been working on throughout the series, and provide kids with supplies to create shelters and signs for the animal enclosures. Scan QR code to see some examples.

Let's keep working on our tiny zoo! We're almost done. It's really coming together!

We learned today that we can say **I'm not afraid – God is with me!**

When animals are scared, they seek shelter. Shelters are places of refuge that make you feel safe when you may be afraid. So, let's create enclosures and areas of rest for the animals within their exhibits.

Sometimes, I feel afraid when I'm lost. I think we should also help our visitors be brave in the zoo by creating signposts, so they always know where to go.



**MEMORY VERSE:** "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knows those who trust in him." — Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

[Click here](#) for a memory verse sign language tutorial video you can share with your families and volunteers!

**BIG IDEA:** I'm not afraid — God is with me! **BIBLE:** Daniel 6; 2 Timothy 4:16-18



## WEEK 5 LESSON OVERVIEW



### BIG IDEA

I don't know the future but I know  
God is with me!

### BIBLE

**Daniel's Dream:**  
Daniel 7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

## STUFF FOR THIS WEEK

### TEACHING – WEEK 1

- ▶ [Shop & Prep List](#)
- ▶ [Teaching Videos](#)
- ▶ [Hacks for Preteens & Special Needs](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

### FAMILIES & VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ [Family Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer & Parent Emails](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer & Parent Hubs](#)
- ▶ [Series Promo Cards & Posters](#)
- ▶ [Marketing Checklist](#)
- ▶ [Social Media Posts & Captions](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS WEEK



### DESIGN

We made **lots of graphics** for you! Use them to create slides, social media posts, and more! You can find them in your [Graphics & Video folder.](#), along with a Style Guide for this series.



### CUSTOMIZE

You know your kids and ministry better than we do, so **you might want make some tweaks to this week's lesson.** Customize the lesson by editing the Word document in your series downloads or in the [Message Builder](#). Then customize this week's presentation in [SLIDR](#) by adding or adjusting the images and videos you need for this week's lesson. Finally, customize your teaching content in your [Volunteer and Parent Hubs](#) to share it with everyone's grown-ups!



### SHOP & PREP

**We made a list** of everything you'll need to make this week happen. Get your editable Shop & Prep List [right here.](#)



## HACK

If you're using Grow for your kids, you may want to make some tweaks to make it more age appropriate. **Get the Preteen Hacks** for Week 5 [here](#) and the **Special Needs Hacks** for Week 5 [here](#).



## COMMUNICATE

To make sure volunteers and families are in the loop, don't forget about these . . .

- ▶ [Parent & Volunteer Hubs](#)
- ▶ [Parent & Volunteer Emails](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Devotional](#)
- ▶ [Family Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Marketing Checklist](#)
- ▶ [Social Media Posts & Captions](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse](#)

# WEEK 5

## HACKS FOR PRETEENS



### **REVISE**

To make this series more accessible for preteens, here's what to adjust . . .

#### **ACTIVITY | Big Cat Craze**

This might be a good week to allow the preteens in your group to either demonstrate or have them lead the activities entirely. They can get creative and make up fun new rules while exercising some leadership skills.

#### **ACTIVITY | Monkey Glue**

Set a time limit of two minutes for this game to increase the difficulty level for preteens.

### **REPLACE**

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

#### **RESPONSE | Giants**

Play the song "For God is With Us" (For King and Country) or a worship playlist that vibes with preteens.

### **REMEMBER**

As you have conversations with preteens about the future and their thoughts about it, invite a leader or youth group volunteer to share specifically with preteens about an experience they had when they themselves were preteens. Encourage them to share how they felt before at the time and how God got them through the experience.

## WEEK 5

### HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



#### **REVISE**

To make this series more accessible for kids with special needs, here's what to adjust . . .

##### **ACTIVITY | Big Cat Craze**

For friends with mobility issues, have kids sit in a circle and look down. When their animal is called, they must look up and attempt to not make eye contact with another animal of their type. If someone makes eye contact with them, they're out and play continues.

##### **ACTIVITY | Monkey Glue**

For friends who would prefer to not get anything on their noses, offer to place the Vaseline on their hand or give them a rubber glove to place the Vaseline on instead.

#### **REPLACE**

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

##### **QUESTION | Time Travel**

Twenty years into the future might be a difficult concept for some friends to grasp. Consider bringing in some old photos and memorabilia from your life when you were the kids' age and talk with them about how many things have changed since then.

#### **REMEMBER**

Try to include the whole group in learning the way our friends with special needs do. In addition to getting kids to learn the memory verse in sign language, ask kids to show the rest of the group how to sign specific words and have the kids echo it back to them throughout the day. The group could learn how to sign different animals or even the Big Idea!

## WEEK 5 LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

I don't know the future but I know  
God is with me!

### BIBLE

**Daniel's Dream:**  
Daniel 7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

## LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome back to *Hear Me Roar*, and our adventures at the Babylon Zoo! It's been such a kick having you here with us! Today is our last day together at the zoo. I don't know exactly what's in store, but I can assure you it will be awesome!

### WHAT? What are we talking about today?

#### MUSIC | Worship

- **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!](#)
  - "Echo" (Elevation Worship)
  - "God Is Always With Us" (Lifetree Kids)
  - "I'm Trusting You" (Lifetree Kids)
  - "Not Afraid" (Rend Co. Kids)
  - "Journey of a Lifetime" (Kids on the Move)

#### ACTIVITY | Big Cat Craze

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have students sit in a circle of chairs, with one less chair than you have students. Designate one person to be "it," and have them stand in the middle. Go around the circle and count kids off by assigning them to team 1, 2, 3, or 4.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** This might be a good week to allow the preteens in your group to either demonstrate or have them lead the activities entirely. They can get creative and make up fun new rules while exercising some leadership skills.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For friends with mobility issues, have kids sit in a circle and look down. When their animal is called, they must look up and attempt to not make eye contact with another animal of their type. If someone makes eye contact with them, they're out and play continues.
- Today we're going to play "Big Cat Craze!" Each of you are going to be given a name of a big cat.

- Ones, you're lions!
- Twos, you're tigers!
- Threes, you're leopards.
- Fours, you're jaguars!
- The person who is "it" will call out a group of animals. For instance, if they call out, "Jaguars" all of the Jaguars will stand up, run, and find a new chair. The person who is "it" also tries to find an empty chair. You can call several groups at once, or you can also call out "Big Cat Craze!" At that point, everyone has to stand up and hurry to find a new chair!
- **How did you feel when you were trying to find a chair? How did you feel when you were in the middle?**
- That felt like chaos didn't it? Things that aren't organized and confusing can cause us to be anxious and excited at the same time.

### ACTIVITY | Monkey Glue

- **Have you ever seen a proboscis monkey?** Their noses are huge, and during this game, ours will be too!
- Before we start, we're going to give each of you a smudge of Monkey Glue on your nose — don't worry, it's not *really* monkey glue. During this race, one at a time, you must run across the room, and stick a cotton ball on your nose, and run back to your team.
- Here's the catch, you can only use your noses! If your cotton ball falls off, you must go back to the cotton ball station and try again. The first team to finish wins!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show a [picture](#) of a proboscis monkey. Then, divide the students into even teams and line them up on one end of the room. Here, Vaseline is referred to as "Monkey Glue."
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Set a time limit of two minutes for this game to increase the difficulty level for preteens.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For friends who would prefer to not get anything on their noses, offer to place the Vaseline on their hand or give them a rubber glove to place the Vaseline on instead.
- There was no way of knowing exactly how this game would pan out but you stuck with it! Today's Bible story is going to tell us more about what we can do when we face the unknown!

### QUESTION | Time Travel

- We are going to leave the Babylon Zoo for a bit and step into a time machine.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a [time machine sound effect](#), then ask the question below.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Twenty years into the future might be a difficult concept for some friends to grasp. Consider bringing in some old photos and memorabilia from your life when you were the kids' age and talk with them about how many things have changed since then.
- Whoa! Here we go! I don't know how far into the future we're going! I'm kind of excited, and I'm kind of scared! Wow, we're here! We've been transported twenty years into the future!
- **How old will you be twenty years from now?**
- **When you imagine stepping out into the world twenty years from now, what do you expect your life to be like? What frightens you? What excites you?**

**SO WHAT?** Why does it matter to God and to us?

### SCRIPTURE | Daniel 7 (Daniel's Dream)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Dressed as a zookeeper, tell the Bible story from the zookeeper's perspective. Today's story spans all of Daniel 7, but feel free to only read the parts out loud that work for your specific age group.

- I hope you all have been enjoying your time at the Babylon Zoo. I know I had a lot of fun sharing my love of all the different animals we have here and even getting to share some of the non-zoo goings-on in the kingdom of Babylon, too!
- I know I've been talking your ear off about my new friend Daniel, but that guy has the wildest stories! He and his three friends started off as total newbies to Babylon but with God's help and protection, they basically started running the place! From fiery furnaces to dens of lions, these guys have been through a lot.
- Well, it turns out there's even more to tell. Daniel hears from God even while he's sleeping! He started telling me about a dream he had last night. **Wanna hear it?**
  - *[Read Daniel 7:2–8.]*
- Wow, those are some exotic animals — certainly none like the animals at our zoo!
- **Do you remember their description?**
  - The first animal looked like a lion but it had what? Wings like an eagle!
  - Then there was a bear with vicious looking teeth.
  - The third one was a leopard with wings and four heads.
  - Then the final, most frightful of all, was a lion-like animal that had horns. **Do you remember how many?** That's right, ten!
- This sounds more like a nightmare than a dream. But then something wild happened . . . well even more wild, I should say. Someone came down from heaven and it became clear that this person was the most powerful — even more powerful than these ferocious creatures. Everyone worshipped this mysterious figure because their kingdom and power would last forever. Daniel said:
  - *[Read Daniel 7:14.]*
- As you can imagine, an odd dream like this left Daniel very concerned. In fact, he woke up feeling afraid. Daniel wasn't sure how to make sense of the strange things he saw. But God reminded Daniel that God was with him.
  - *[Read Daniel 7:23–27.]*
- This was a message of hope at the time for Daniel and God's people, all of whom were forced away from their homes and were living under the reign of unfair rulers.
  - God was saying that one day there will be one kingdom that will rise above them all, and it will be ruled by someone who would love their people, treat everyone with compassion, and would be more powerful than every other kingdom that came before it.
  - And this kind of hope made people wait and wait for hundreds of years for such a savior. But we know now that the savior everyone was waiting for was Jesus. Sure, Jesus didn't come and establish a super powerful kingdom on earth like everyone thought he would, but he did do something better. He made a way to connect everyone to God and God's kingdom — a kingdom that does really last forever!
- God revealed this tiny glimpse of the future to Daniel to remind him and all of God's people that God hadn't forgotten about them. That's why even though Daniel didn't know how or when exactly these things were going to happen, he continued trusting God!

### **BIG IDEA | I don't know the future but I know God is with me!**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up your space with the coconut tree, flamingo, and lion decorations like last week. Insert papers with the Big Ideas into the coconuts and attach them to the tree. Play the song, "[The Lion Sleeps Tonight](#)," as you gather the kids. After the Big Idea reveal, play a [sound bite of a lion's roar](#). For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
- Ari the lion normally sleeps at this time, but he hasn't been able to sleep since the four creatures arrived. We're all feeling a little on edge. So, let's crack open today's Big Idea. I have a feeling it will help us. *[Grab a coconut off the tree and open it to find the Big Idea.]*

- [Take out a piece of paper containing the Big Idea and read it out loud.] **I don't know the future but I know God is with me!** That is such good news. I think we all need that around here! Let's shout, or should I say, ROAR, the Big Idea! Let's ROAR it loud enough for Ari to hear. **I don't know the future but I know God is with me!** [Play a [sound bite of a lion's roar](#) as a response to the roar of the kids!]

### VIDEO | Hear Me Roar, Episode 5

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

### VIDEO | Facing the Future Together

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show this [video](#) of Ruuxa and Raina.
- There were so many unknowns in the video! First, it was unknown if the cheetah baby was going to be able to walk or run. Then, it was up in the air if the cheetah and puppy would become friends. But Ruuxa the cheetah was able to run in the end. Now he and the dog, Raina, are life-long buddies!
- You might say Ruuxa was able to face the future because Raina was there with him!
- We may not know how the future will play out . . . and that can be a little scary. When we start something new, or if we have to go to the doctor's office, or when we learn about something big happening out in the world, we might get worried about what that means for us. But it's easier to face uncertainty when we remember that God is with us through all of it.
- **I don't know the future but I know God is with me!** And that's all we need to know to face anything!

### ACTIVITY | Star-Nosed Mole Volleyball

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into two teams, with each team on opposite sides of a designated line in the middle. Have the kids spread out and sit down, facing the other team, like they are going to play volleyball. Two volunteers will hold a large blanket between the teams, so they can't see each other. Show a picture of a [star-nosed mole](#) beforehand.
- **Have you ever heard of a star-nosed mole?** They have this huge nose that helps them sense what's around them. They need this nose because star-nosed moles cannot see!
- Today, we're going to play "Star-Nosed Mole Volleyball," where we will play the game with limited visibility!
- As we play, stay seated. You won't be able to see the volleyball until it is already over the blanket! This is a bit unpredictable, but do your best to work as a team and send the ball back over!
- [After the kids have played for a while, change the rules.]
- Now, we're going to change things up a bit. Your two teams will now work together to see how long you can keep the ball up in the air! So, in order to lessen the unpredictability, shout "over" as soon as you hit the ball to the other team!
- **How difficult was it to play volleyball without being able to see what was coming?**
- **How did the game change when you started helping one another?**
- It's easier to face the unknown when we have an outside perspective to help us. That's why God's presence gives us courage and comfort! God has heavenly perspective that we don't have. When we can't see the future clearly, God can help us move forward with confidence.
- **I don't know the future but I know God is with me!**

### SCRIPTURE | 2 Thessalonians 1:1–4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1–4.
- The last few weeks, we read some of Paul's letters to Timothy. What we just read was written about fifteen years before those letters. Paul, Timothy, and their friend, Silas, wrote this letter to a church in Thessalonica. Why?

- The people of that church were being persecuted because they believed in Jesus, so they were forced to go into hiding and study the Bible together in secret.
- I'm sure in the middle of their hardship, they wondered what the future would hold. It had to be encouraging for them to hear from Paul, Silas, and Timothy, because all of them had experienced persecution too! They knew those guys had been beaten, put in jail, and made fun of for their faith.
- I can't help but wonder what gave these early Christians the courage to face their unknown future. It had to be very difficult wondering if someone was going to arrest you or make your life more difficult because of your faith. I think the reason they were able to remain so steadfast is because they trusted in Jesus.
  - Jesus knew what it was like to face trials. He knew what it was like to be persecuted. For Jesus, it was not unknown. He knew exactly what pain and hardship was in front of him and he walked forward anyway, all while trusting that God was with him.
- Nothing surprises Jesus. He isn't shaken by what shakes us. He doesn't give in to fear but overcomes it, and teaches us to do the same. That's why I can say this boldly: **I don't know the future but I know God is with me!** Say it with me!

### NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

#### ACTIVITY | Elephant Parade

- Elephants travel together, often by holding one another's tails with their trunks. The leader at the front guides them, and the other adults look after their family members in the line.
- Today, you're going to be a parade of elephants! You will hold hands and navigate a series of obstacles. The twist is that each of you will be blindfolded, except for the person at the front and the person at the back — they'll be your guides.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Place the kids in a single file line. Blindfold the kids, except for the ones at the front and at the back. Kids will all hold onto a rope (or hold hands), and navigate the obstacles in the room as a group. Optional: Beforehand, show a picture like [this](#) of elephants walking in a line. Play this song [from "Jungle Book"](#) as they navigate through the obstacle course.*
- **For those of you who couldn't see, how was your experience?**
- **What made you feel nervous?**
- **What made you feel comfortable?**
- **For those of you who could see, what was your experience like?**
- Even when we can't see what's in front of us, we can move forward with confidence, because we're not alone. We can count on reliable family members and friends to help us, and we can trust that God will lead us through all of life's obstacles.

#### RESPONSE | Giants

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather the kids at tables. Give them paper and drawing supplies. While they work, play a song that speaks to this week's Big Idea, like "[Won't Worry 'Bout a Thing](#)" (Lifetree Kids). For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Play the song "For God is With Us" (For King and Country) or a worship playlist that vibes with preteens.*
- **When you think about the future, what makes you feel insecure or nervous?** Draw a picture that represents your fears or worries.
- Now write God in giant letters on top of your drawing. **How do you feel about these so-called giants now, knowing God is even bigger than these unknown things?**

### MEMORY VERSE | Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

- **“The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.”**
- Oh dear! Zoe, our zebra needs some help! She has lost her stripes! Let’s help Zoe feel like herself again. Several of you are holding Zoe’s stripes, with a few words of our memory verse on them. Come up front, in order, and tape your stripes on Zoe. I don’t know exactly what Zoe’s stripes will look like, but I know this . . . She will be covered in God’s promises! I’m sure she’ll be quite the fashionable zebra as well!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tape a large poster-sized picture of a zebra without stripes to the wall. Give several students large strips of black paper with a few words from the verse printed on them. Have the students come up, in order, and tape the stripes to the zebra. (Don’t forget to also check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/Nahum1-7](http://growcurriculum.org/Nahum1-7).)*

### PRAYER

- God, the Bible says you are the beginning and the end, which means you are, you have, and you always will be with us. You have taken care of me in the past, so I can trust you will help me with whatever comes next. I don’t know the future, but I can live with peace and confidence because I know you are with me! Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- **When Daniel was troubled about what he saw, what did he do?**
- **Did Daniel know exactly what would happen with the four beasts?**
- **Since he didn’t get to see what happened next, what helped Daniel as he thought about the future?**
- **Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1–4. In what ways did Paul, Silas, and Timothy encourage their friends who may have been worried about the future?**
- **What is your biggest dream for the future?**
- **What about the future makes you feel the most uncomfortable?**
- **What can help us feel better about facing unknown situations?**

### ACTIVITY | Tiny Zoo

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Finish your zoo with your group today using the random variety of materials you’re given. Encourage your group to get creative in adding additional elements. If they are having trouble thinking of ideas, you could suggest a carousel, bridges, food dishes, a cafeteria for the guests, etc.*
- We’re going to complete our zoo! But, here’s the deal . . . There is no plan for today! There are no instructions, and we were given a random selection of materials. So, let’s get creative and add several elements that will help us complete our zoo! I can’t picture how it will turn out quite yet, but I know it will be unique and amazing!
- As you put the final touches on your zoo, not sure how it will all turn out, remember that even though we can’t be sure of how our life will go, we can continue to trust God to direct us in all the right ways. **I don’t know the future but I know God is with me** – and that’s good enough for me!

# WEEK 5

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

I don't know the future but I know  
God is with me!

### BIBLE

**Daniel's Dream:**  
Daniel 7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

## QUESTIONS

- When Daniel was troubled about what he saw, what did he do?
- Did Daniel know exactly what would happen with the four beasts?
- Since he didn't get to see what happened next, what helped Daniel as he thought about the future?
- Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1–4. In what ways did Paul, Silas, and Timothy encourage their friends who may have been worried about the future?
- What is your biggest dream for the future?
- What about the future makes you feel the most uncomfortable?
- What can help us feel better about facing unknown situations?

## ACTIVITY

Finish your zoo with your group today using the random variety of materials you're given. Encourage your group to get creative in adding additional elements. If they are having trouble thinking of ideas, you could suggest a carousel, bridges, food dishes, a cafeteria for the guests, etc.

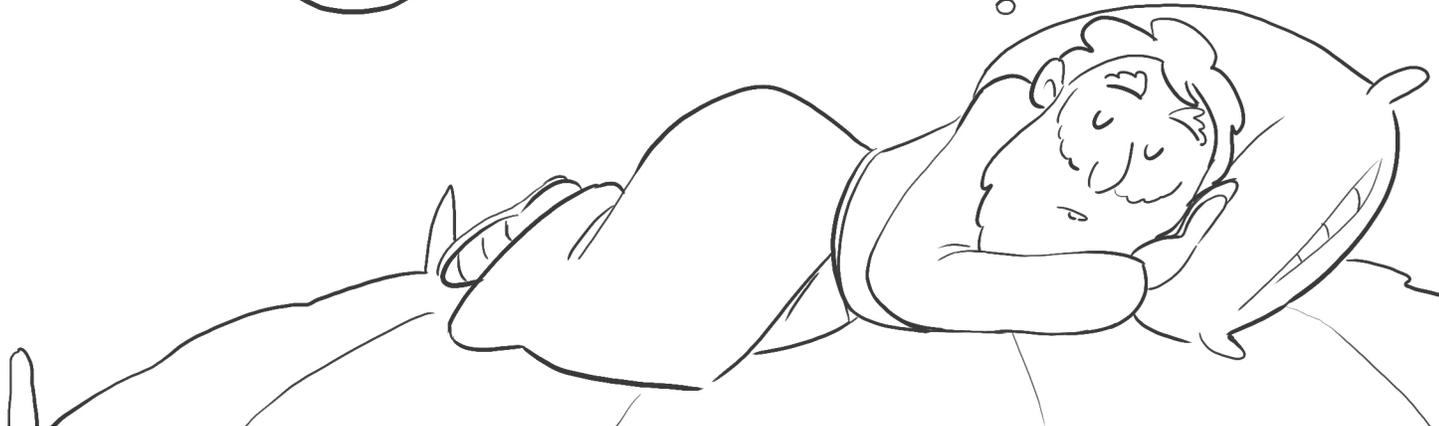
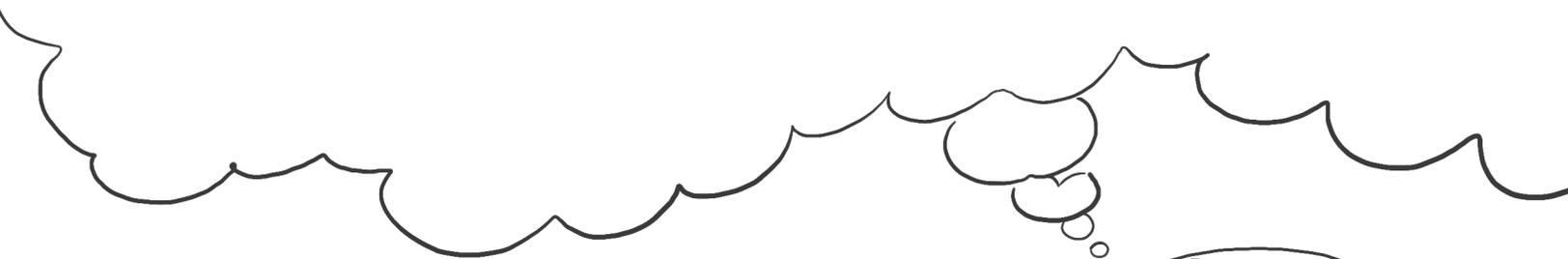
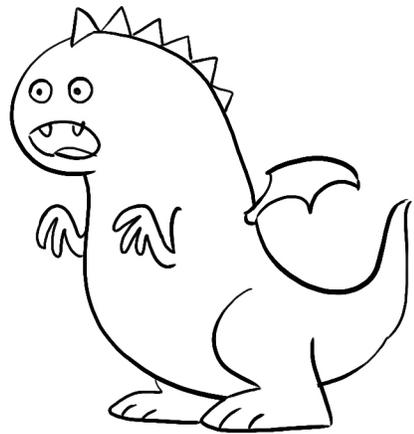
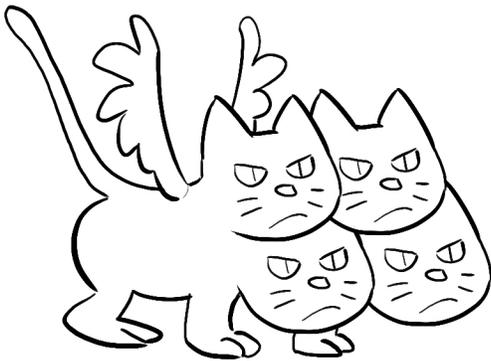
We're going to complete our zoo! But, here's the deal . . . There is no plan for today! There are no instructions, and we were given a random selection of materials. So, let's get creative and add several elements that will help us complete our zoo! I can't picture how it will turn out quite yet, but I know it will be unique and amazing!

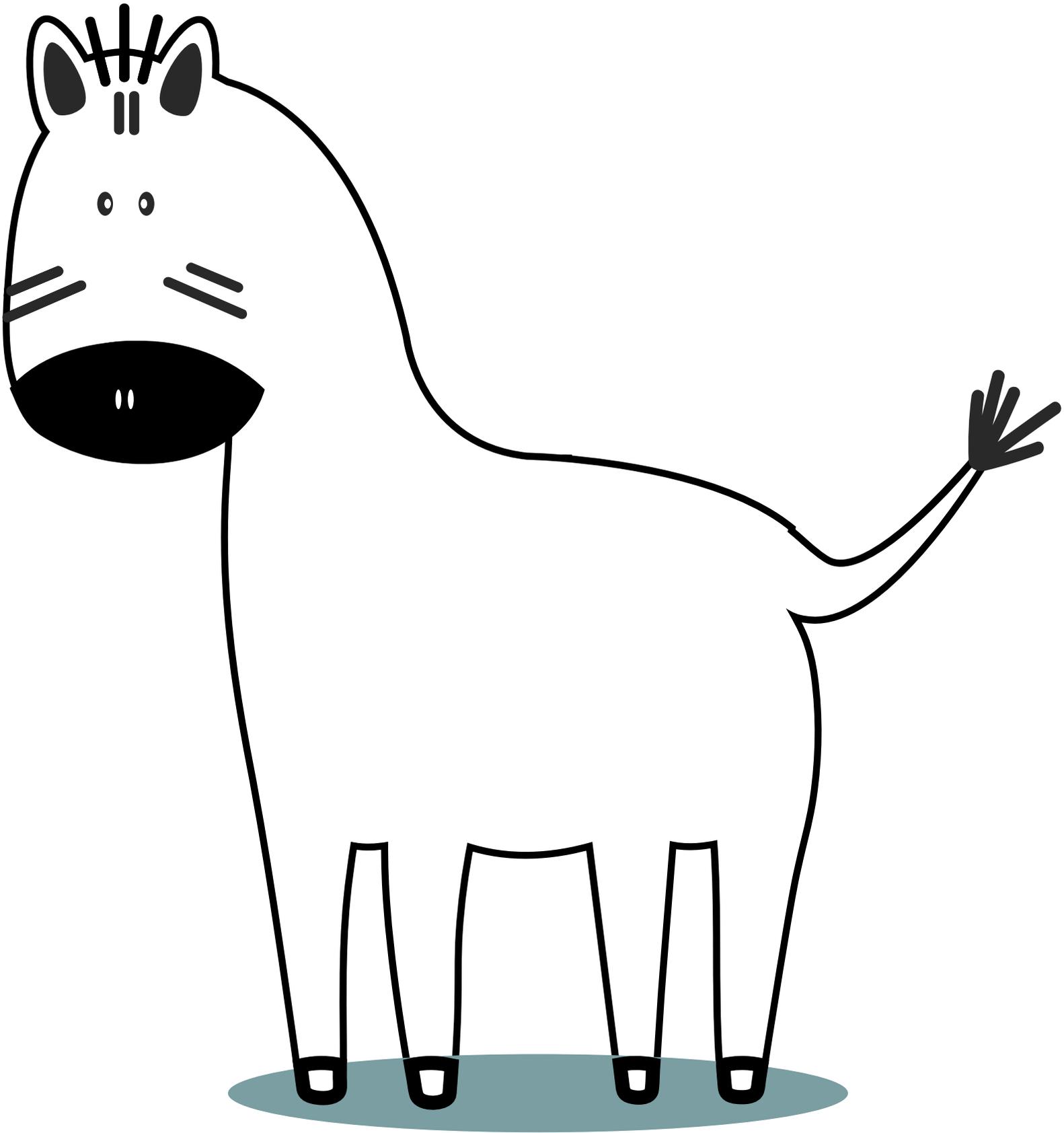
We can continue to trust God to direct us in all the right ways. **I don't know the future but I know God is with me** — and that's good enough for me!

**MEMORY VERSE:** "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knows those who trust in him." — Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

[Click here](#) for a memory verse sign language tutorial video you can share with your families and volunteers!

**BIG IDEA:** I don't know the future but I know God is with me!  
**BIBLE: Daniel's Dream:** Daniel 7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4; Hebrews 12:28-29





Cut out the stripes and paste them on your zebra!

Lord is

The

good, a

refuge in times

who trust in him.

Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

of trouble.

He cares for those



The

Lord is

good, a

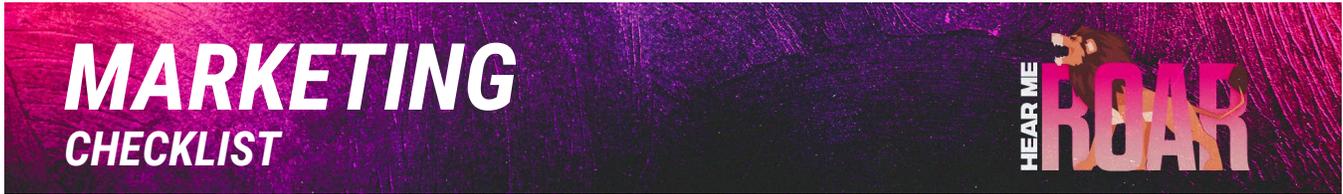
refuge in times

of trouble.

He cares for those

who trust in him.

Nahum 1:7 (NIV)



# MARKETING CHECKLIST

## BEFORE THE SERIES

### ✓ TO DO

	Print your <b>Series Promo Poster</b> and <b>Series Promo Cards</b> and display them where families and volunteers can see them.
	Customize your <b>Volunteer Hub</b> and <b>Family Hub</b> web pages for this series.
	Customize and send the <b>Family Email</b> for this series.
	Send the <b>Volunteer Email</b> for Week 1 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.
	Review the <b>suggested Social Media Posts and Captions</b> for this series.
	Post the <b>Bumper Video</b> on social media with this caption: We're starting a new series on Daniel this week called Hear Me Roar. Check your email for all the details!

## AFTER WEEK 1

### ✓ TO DO

	Post the <b>Teaching Video</b> for Week 1 on social media with this caption: Did you miss our conversation yesterday? Catch up with this week's teaching video! Remember, we won't give up – God is with us!
	Post the <b>Big Idea Graphic</b> for Week 1 on social media and/or send with this caption: Week 1 of Hear Me Roar is in the books! We talked about Israel's journey in Babylon had what it means to not give up. Here was the Big Idea: I won't give up— God is with me!
	Send the <b>Volunteer Email</b> for Week 2 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.

AFTER WEEK 2

✓ TO DO

	<p>Post the <b>Teaching Video</b> for Week 2 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>Need a reminder about what we talked about yesterday? Check out this week’s teaching video for a recap! Here’s a hint: We’re not alone – God is with us!</p>
	<p>Post the <b>Big Idea Graphic</b> for Week 2 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>This week in our series Hear Me Roar, we looked at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s devotion to God and how they ended up in the fiery furnace. Here was the Big Idea: I’m not alone – God is with me!</p>
	<p>Send the <b>Volunteer Email</b> for Week 3 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.</p>

AFTER WEEK 3

✓ TO DO

	<p>Post the <b>Teaching Video</b> for Week 3 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>Remember what we talked about yesterday? No? That’s okay – this week’s teaching video will remind you! Speaking of which . . . we can keep learning – God is with us!</p>
	<p>Post the <b>Big Idea Graphic</b> for Week 3 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>In Week 3 of Hear Me Roar, we looked at Daniel’s interpretation of the writing on the wall. Here was the Big Idea: I can keep learning – God is with me!</p>
	<p>Send the <b>Volunteer Email</b> for Week 4 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.</p>

AFTER WEEK 4

✓ TO DO

	<p>Post the <b>Teaching Video</b> for Week 4 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>Check out today’s teaching video for more on Daniel and how he ended up in the lion’s den. Like we talked about yesterday, we’re not afraid – God is with us!</p>
	<p>Post the <b>Big Idea Graphic</b> for Week 4 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>In Week 4 of Hear Me Roar, we looked at Daniel and why he was in the lion’s den. Here’s the Big Idea one more time: I’m not afraid – God is with me!</p>
	<p>Send the <b>Volunteer Email</b> for Week 5 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.</p>

AFTER WEEK 5

✓ TO DO

	<p>Post the <b>Teaching Video</b> for Week 5 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>Yesterday, we talked about Daniel's dream of the strange beasts and what it meant. Not ringing a bell? Get the full recap with this week's teaching video!</p>
	<p>Post the <b>Big Idea Graphic</b> for Week 5 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>It's our final week of Hear Me Roar! It's been a great conversation with your kids. We closed with a conversation about Daniel's dream of the strange beasts and what it meant. Here was the Big Idea: I don't know the future but I know God is with me!</p>
	<p>Get ready for the next series!</p>

## SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS & CAPTIONS



Need some help deciding what to post on social media before and during this series? Here's our suggestion: each week, share the media we've provided in your Graphics and Videos folder using the captions below.

### BEFORE THE SERIES



#### BUMPER VIDEO

We're starting a new series on Daniel this week called Hear Me Roar. Check your email for all the details!

### AFTER WEEK 1



#### TEACHING VIDEO (WEEK 1)

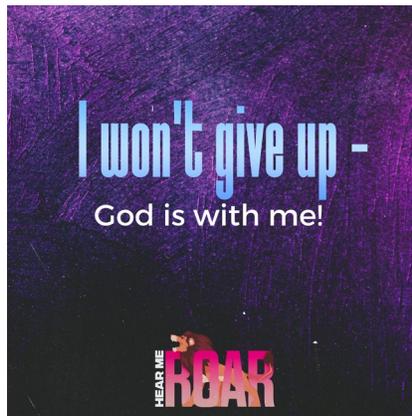
Did you miss our conversation yesterday? Catch up with this week's teaching video! Remember, we won't give up — God is with us!

### AFTER WEEK 2



#### TEACHING VIDEO (WEEK 2)

Need a reminder about what we talked about yesterday? Check out this week's teaching video for a recap! Here's a hint: We're not alone — God is with us!



#### BIG IDEA (WEEK 1)

Week 1 of Hear Me Roar is in the books! We talked about Israel's journey in Babylon had what it means to not give up. Here was the Big Idea: I won't give up— God is with me!



#### BIG IDEA (WEEK 2)

This week in our series Hear Me Roar, we looked at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's devotion to God and how they ended up in the fiery furnace. Here was the Big Idea: I'm not alone — God is with me!

AFTER WEEK 3



**TEACHING VIDEO (WEEK 3)**

Remember what we talked about yesterday? No? That's okay – this week's teaching video will remind you! Speaking of which . . . we can keep learning – God is with us!

AFTER WEEK 4



**TEACHING VIDEO (WEEK 4)**

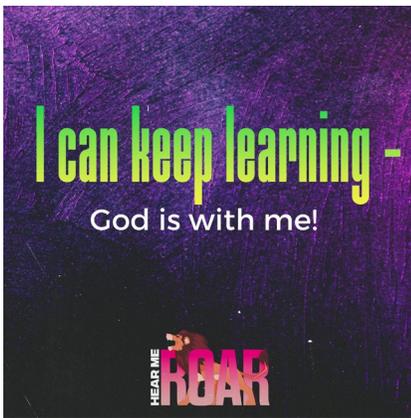
Check out today's teaching video for more on Daniel and how he ended up in the lion's den. Like we talked about yesterday, we're not afraid – God is with us!

AFTER WEEK 5



**TEACHING VIDEO (WEEK 5)**

Yesterday, we talked about Daniel's dream of the strange beasts and what it meant. Not ringing a bell? Get the full recap with this week's teaching video!



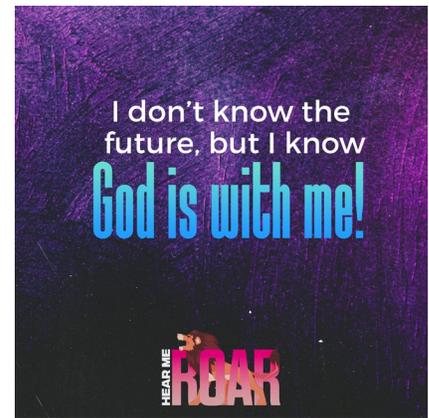
**BIG IDEA (WEEK 3)**

In Week 3 of Hear Me Roar, we looked at Daniel's interpretation of the writing on the wall. Here was the Big Idea: I can keep learning – God is with me!



**BIG IDEA (WEEK 4)**

In Week 4 of Hear Me Roar, we looked at Daniel and why he was in the lion's den. Here's the Big Idea one more time: I'm not afraid – God is with me!



**BIG IDEA (WEEK 5)**

It's our final week of Hear Me Roar! It's been a great conversation with your kids. We closed with a conversation about Daniel's dream of the strange beasts and what it meant. Here was the Big Idea: I don't know the future but I know God is with me!

WHAT WE'RE TEACHING



ADD YOUR LOGO HERE

WHAT WE'RE TEACHING



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WHAT WE'RE TEACHING



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WHAT WE'RE TEACHING



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