

## MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Solo cups, rubber bands, string

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Form teams of four kids. (Adjust numbers as needed based on how many kids you have. They'll need four people to pick up a cup [see below], so if a team has more than four kids, they'll rotate and take turns.)
- Give each team a rubber band and six cups. They will also need one piece of string for each kid on the team.
- Show teams how to make a looped gripping device by tying one end of each piece of string to the rubber band.
- Make sure the strings are evenly spaced around the rubber band.
- Set out one cup upside down in front of each team and let kids practice gripping the cup by pulling together on their strings to stretch open the rubber band.
  - Working together, they must move the stretched rubber band over the base of the upside-down cup then loosen their grip to secure it.
  - Let them practice lifting the cup together and setting it down.
  - This is the process they will use to stack all six cups into a pyramid (three cups on the bottom, two in the middle, and one on top).
- Once teams have practiced and gotten the hang of picking up a cup, challenge them to race to see who can stack all of their cups the quickest.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Just Like Fire**  
Shadrach, Meshach,  
and Abednego  
Daniel 3

## KEY QUESTION

**When are some times  
you need to trust God?**

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Trust that God is always with you.**

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

## MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Confidence—Learning to see  
yourself the way God sees you**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"This was a challenging way to stack a few cups. Can you imagine if the cup pyramid was ten feet taller? How about twenty feet taller? What if it towered more than fifty feet high? **[Transition] In today's story we'll hear about a ninety-foot tower that led to a very heated situation. Let's go find out.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



## 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Together as a group, create simple gestures to represent each of the words below:

- FIRE
- WIND
- WATER

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

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## MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



## 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, markers, "Acrostics" Activity Page

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the "Acrostics" in four different areas of your small group space.
  - Depending on your environment, the Acrostics can be attached to a wall, placed on a table, or attached to a clip board and set on the floor.
- Open four Bibles to Daniel 3 and place one next to each Acrostic page.
- Give each kid a fine tip marker.
- Show kids the location of each Acrostic.
- Explain that they will move around to each Acrostic page, filling it in with a word, phrase, or sentence related to the Bible story.
  - They can describe a person, emotion, place, action, event—really anything that connects to the story in a clear way.
  - Kids can choose any of the letters in no particular order as long as it is the first letter in whatever they write.
  - As soon as they fill in one of the letters, they can move to a different Acrostic.
  - They can return to the same Acrostics as many times as they like until all the letters are filled in.
  - If kids get stumped, they can use the Bibles beside each Acrostic to look for ideas.
- Tell kids to put their initials in front of each line they write to see who fills in the most.
- Review the story by reading the completed Acrostics.
- Use the following to prompt discussion of the story:
  - What do you think was going through the minds of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as they waited to be thrown into the furnace?
  - We don't find any indication that the men went into the furnace kicking, screaming, or putting up a fight. What do you think was the basis for their confidence and peace in this horrible situation?
  - Why do you think God chose to not rescue Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego before they went into the furnace?
  - **[Make it Personal] (Share about a situation in your life that you asked God to change, but instead, He didn't change or fix the situation but allowed you to go through it and experience it. What do you think He wanted you to learn about trusting Him by that you wouldn't have learned if He had kept it from happening?)**
- Encourage kids to choose a word from one of the acrostics to be their one-word-takeaway from today's story.
- Challenge them to remember the word and use it this week as a reminder that God is always with them.

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share  
and collaborate with others while  
growing their understanding



### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- In what ways should believing God is always with us affect the everyday life of a Jesus follower?
- The faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego impacted Nebuchadnezzar and his whole kingdom. How can knowing God is always with you impact the lives of those around you?
- When are some times you need to trust God or you have needed to trust God?
- How can you remember to trust God when you experience a situation that hurts your confidence in yourself or in Him?

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## 4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, paper, pens, tape, (optional) dictionary app

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Form teams of three kids.
- Make sure each kid has a Bible or device with a Bible App.
- Assign one of the verses below to each kid on the team to look up.
  - Joshua 1:9
  - Matthew 28:19-20
  - Isaiah 41:10
- Ask:
  - What promise do you read in the verse you looked up?
  - When might remembering this promise from God give you confidence?
- Challenge each team to find one four-letter word that is in all three verses then be the first to spell out the word on the floor using strips of tape. (Kids should discover that the word "WITH" is found in all three verses regardless the translation.)
- Discuss.
  - How would you define the word, "WITH?" (Allow kids to use a dictionary app or do an internet search to find different definitions.)
  - If someone asked, "How can I know God is always with me?" what would you tell them?
- Encourage kids to choose one of the three verses to read each day and memorize this week.

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**PHILIPPIANS 1:6, NIV**

## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal processing  
and application



## 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

- While the verses from the previous activity are still fresh in their minds, invite kids to think of a time in the coming week when remembering that God is with them will be especially helpful.
- Ask kids to suggest a few ideas of things they can do to that will help them remember that God is with them such as bookmarking and memorizing Joshua 1:9, Matthew 26:19-20, or Isaiah 41:10.
- They might consider writing the word WITH on a card or (*with permission*) use tape to spell it out on their bedroom floor as a reminder that God is always with them.
- Provide a few minutes for kids to share specific challenges they are facing in which they need to remember that God is with them.
- Encourage kids to take turns praying for one another then close with prayer.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for Your promise to be with us. You have reminded us over and over again in Your Word that You will never leave us. Help us to remember that this week when we feel alone, afraid, or overwhelmed. If You can save Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from a fiery furnace, we know that You can help us through the problems we face this week. In Jesus' name, amen."

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## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

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**What to Do:**

Print on cardstock. Provide one set for each small group.

**"Acrostics" Activity Page 1/4**

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Print on cardstock. Provide one set for each small group.

**"Acrostics" Activity Page 2/4**

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**What to Do:**

Print on cardstock. Provide one set for each small group.

**"Acrostics" Activity Page 3/4**

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**What to Do:**

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**"Acrostics" Activity Page 4/4**

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