

---

# GOD IS REAL

---

## SERIES: KEEP IT REAL

Join us throughout the month of February as we hear stories that show how GOD IS REAL! We will be going through the books of Daniel, Esther, and Nehemiah!

## REMEMBER VERSE

PROVERBS 19:21—Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

---

## SCHEDULE

### *All Services*

- 0:00—0:35 Small Group (Respond Activity/Lesson)
- 0:35—0:40 Transition to Large Group
- 0:40—1:00 Large Group (B100)
- 1:00—1:05 Transition to Small Group
- 1:05—1:15 Bless and Dismiss

## NOTES

---

# LEADER RESOURCES

---

## SERIES OVERVIEW

CURRENT WEEK: God Is Real

*Daniel*

WEEK 2: God Is In Control

*Esther*

WEEK 3: God Redeems

*Nehemiah*

WEEK 4: Remember & Celebrate

*Feast of Harvest*

---

## EQUIP

In Daniel 6, Daniel faced a monumental test of faith. The royal decree was clear: Pray to the king and live; pray to another person or god and die. But Daniel refused. Daniel 6:10 says, "Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

In Daniel 9, he poured his heart out to God, at about the same time he faced the king's decree. The prayer concerns the future and fate of Israel, Jerusalem, and the temple—with a bonus of revealing the circumstances surrounding and the specific timing regarding the first and second comings of the Messiah.

As chapter 9 begins, Daniel prays for his nation, entreating God to forgive their sin. Even though Daniel knew God would keep His promise and return the people to the land as well as restore the city and temple (Jeremiah 25:8-12; 29:11), Daniel still asks the Lord to bring it about.

Daniel's prayer concerns the fate of his people for the next few decades; the answer from God discusses the fate of Daniel's people for the rest of time. At a time when the people needed an encouraging word, after being taken captive by the Babylonians, God sends the Israelites a message about the coming of the Messiah. God doesn't just promise that the Messiah will come; God also tells them when.

Note the urgency in Daniel's prayer: "Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act!" (v.19). At the moment Daniel begins his prayer, God sends Gabriel with the answer. Before Daniel finishes praying, his answer arrives. There was no doubt in Daniel's mind that God is real and would always be with him—even in a den of lions.

---

## ENCOURAGE

Most of the time, when we talk about being spiritually bold, we speak of being vocal for our faith—like Paul, who spoke to anyone and everyone who would listen. We also refer to martyrs who die for their faith in the face of opposition. We see both of these models of boldness in Scripture, such as with Daniel, who prayed to God, although forbidden to do so by decree.

We know from other sections of the book of Daniel, such as Daniel 9, that God used Daniel to intercede for God's people. Take time this week to boldly intercede for your church, your community, your family, and your world. As Scripture says, "Approach God's throne of grace with confidence" (Hebrews 4:16). Pray for things you would normally dismiss as "too big of a problem." Boldly pray to God because He is real.

## WELCOME

*Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.*

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: What's the closest you've ever been to a big, wild, hungry animal?

## RESPOND

*A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.*

Daniel knew that God is real and that all other gods are fake. Daniel continued to pray to the real God three times a day. Our God is real and he sees us and hears us.

INSTRUCTIONS: Hand each child a Lion Foldable. Have them color the squares, reminding them that some will match up to form a picture, like the corners that make the lion's face. Then, have them cut out the square and fold along the lines according to the instructions on the next page. This craft allows them to mimic the lions' mouths being shut, showing how God saved Daniel.

SUPPLIES:

- Lion Foldable
- Crayons/Markers
- Scissors

## REFLECT

*A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.*

The king discovered God is real when he found Daniel still alive in the lions' den. The king had Daniel lifted from the pit, and the king praised God for being the God who rescues and saves.

- Why didn't the other leaders like Daniel? *Daniel 6:1-4*
- What did Daniel do after he heard about the king's decree? *Daniel 6:10*
- Why was it amazing that the lions didn't eat Daniel?
- How did God save Daniel from the lions' den? *Daniel 6:21-22*
- How did Daniel's time in the lions' den prove to the king that God is real? *Daniel 6:19-22*
- Why do we pray to God?
- What do you think it means to be bold in prayer?
- What types of things did you pray for today?
- What types of things do you still want prayer for?

## BLESS

*A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.*

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

1 JOHN 5:20 – We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

BLESSING: May you know that our God is real, that He is the living God, and that He has the power to save and rescue you. May you see His work in your life.

## NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

## RESOURCES PROVIDED:

- NONE

## STORYTELLING

Hi, everyone! *Look nervously over your shoulders.* I've got a problem. *Lean forward as if whispering a secret.* It's bigger than this. *Pinch thumb and index fingers almost together.* Or this. *Hold up hands, palms facing each other, about shoulder-width apart.* It's really, really big! *Open arms wide.* I know God is real and He always answers my prayers, but I'm praying for a problem that seems impossible to fix!

In The Big God Story, God rescued His servants—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—from a blazing fire! God showed that He is real. Today's part of The Big God Story starts about 60 years later.

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and their friend Daniel lived in Babylon. Babylon was eventually taken over by a country called Persia. After taking Babylon, the king met Daniel and decided that he liked Daniel. *Encourage kids to mimic your actions.* Did he like Daniel this much? *Pinch fingers almost together.* Or this much? *Move hands apart.* How much did he like Daniel? *Arms wide.* The king really liked Daniel—so much that he made Daniel a leader in his kingdom.

*Encourage kids to turn to Daniel 6:3 in their Bibles and follow along as you read.* The king even thought about putting Daniel in charge of the entire kingdom! This made the other leaders jealous. Also, they didn't like that Daniel loved and followed God. Daniel knew that God is real! Daniel didn't just follow God a little bit. *Pinch fingers.* Or this much. *Hands apart.* Daniel really followed God! *Arms wide.* Daniel knew God is real. And three times a day, Daniel opened his windows, got on his knees, and prayed to God for help.

While Daniel prayed for God's people, the jealous leaders thought of a way to kill Daniel! Were they a little jealous? *Pinch fingers.* Or this jealous? *Hands apart.* Say it with me: They were really jealous of Daniel. *Arms wide.* So they made a plan to kill Daniel. They tricked the king into signing a special announcement that said that for a whole month, no one could ask anything of God or pray to God. They could only ask the king for what they wanted. If they didn't, they would be killed by lions! Invite a volunteer to read *Daniel 6:6-8* aloud. Then the king sent out the announcement to the entire kingdom.

The leaders did all this because they knew Daniel wouldn't stop praying to God. He worshipped God, who is real. This might sound like a scary situation for Daniel, but let's see what he did. *Read Daniel 6:10.*

Daniel wasn't afraid of anything—including lions—because he knew that God is real. Did Daniel believe in God this much? *Pinch fingers.* Or this much? *Hands apart.* Daniel knew deep in his heart that God is really real! *Arms wide.* So Daniel kept praying to the one true God. And when the jealous leaders saw this, they told the king about it.

What could the king do? He had made a law that couldn't be changed, and now his favorite leader was going to have to die because of it. The king tried and tried to find a way to rescue Daniel, but there was nothing he could do. Daniel would have to be thrown into the lions' den.

Back in the days of the Persian Empire, many kings would keep lions in big pits in the ground, or dens, and starve them. They did this so the lions would gobble up anybody thrown into the pit. How hungry were those lions? This much? *Pinch fingers.* Or this much? *Hands apart.* No! They were really hungry. *Arms wide.* The king gave the order, and Daniel was thrown into the pit of lions.

The next morning, the king woke up and hurried to the pit of lions. *Ask a volunteer to read Daniel 6:20-22.* Amazing! Daniel was alive! Daniel's God is real! The king removed Daniel from the pit and saw that the lions hadn't hurt him. The Bible says, "No wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God" (v. 23).

The king knew that God had saved Daniel, because God is real. So the king sent out a new announcement. *Read Daniel 6:26-27.* This announcement told everyone to worship the one true God!

Throughout this part of The Big God Story, Daniel knew God is real—really real! Daniel prayed to God, and God saved him from the lions' den and changed the king's heart. Daniel's faith made it possible for everyone to see that God is real. God still does amazing things when His people pray. God is real!