

WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I can keep learning —
God is with me!

BIBLE

The Writing on the Wall:
Daniel 5

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Sing and Roar!

- **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!](#)
 - "I'm Trusting You" (Lifetree Kids)
 - "Not Afraid" (Rend Co. Kids)
 - "With Me Every Day" (Yancy)
 - "Through It All" (Lifetree Kids)
 - "What You're Made For" (Lifeway Music)

ACTIVITY | Animal Bowling

- Welcome back to the Babylon Zoo, friends! Are you ready to *Hear Me Roar*? I'm Zookeeper [First Name], and I'm excited to spend time with you today! It's a tough job keeping an eye on all the animals but I think I've wrangled them up so you can play with them.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up the [animal bowling pins](#) in a pyramid shape (one in the front, two behind that, and then finish with three in the back). Line the kids up behind the starting line, instructing them to roll the ball toward the pyramid to try and knock as many pins down as they can. Reset the pins and let the next child have a turn. Repeat play as time allows.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Set up three pins, one behind the other, instead of all six pins.
- You learned very quickly how this game was played!
- Today's Bible story is about something the king learned from Daniel.

ACTIVITY | Cup Stacking

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help the kids work together to construct a pyramid by stacking the cups as high as they can. Encourage them to begin by creating a strong foundation on the bottom, then working their way up.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Help the children stack the cups on top of each other instead of in a pyramid shape.

- You did a fantastic job!
- In today's Bible story, we'll hear how fancy cups were used at a big party.

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Daniel 5 (The Writing on the Wall)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the story of Daniel 5 as though you're guiding kids through an exhibit at the Babylon Zoo, with the help of your [hand puppet friend Theo the Tiger](#) (other hand puppets in pack are used in other weeks). Remain in the zookeeper character.
- Did you happen to see the walls around the Babylon Zoo? These walls help keep the animals (and our visitors) safe.
- Speaking of walls, I heard the most interesting story the other day.
- *[Bring out Theo the Tiger puppet and speak in a different voice]* Me too, Zookeeper [First Name]!
 - Oh hey there! Friends, this is my friend, Theo. He's a tiger! Theo, maybe you can tell my friends about the wall.
- *[Talking as Theo]* I sure can! We've been learning about Daniel and his friends who worked for the king. Well, there's a new king now and he's not very nice. His name is Belshazzar.
 - *[Read Daniel 5 from a preschool Bible or preschool-friendly translation.]*
- It must have been really scary to see that writing on the wall come out of nowhere! And nobody knew what the words on the wall meant.
- But Daniel was able to tell the king what the writing on the wall meant. He told the king that God was not happy with the new king. The king did not love God and made all the wrong choices. So God was going to let another king take over.
- The king should have learned from the mistakes his dad, the old king, made.
- Instead of being like King Belshazzar, we can learn new things and help our friends learn things, too.

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** On a slip of paper, write today's Big Idea and place the paper in an envelope. Keep the envelope in a place that's easy for today's hand puppet to pick up when the time comes to reveal the Big Idea.
- The king learned something new when Daniel told him what the writing on the wall meant.
- We can keep learning, too. That's what our Big Idea for today is all about!
- Theo, today's envelope, please!
- *[Have the kids do a drumroll on their legs. Look over at Theo, who's holding an envelope in his mouth.]*
- Thank you, Theo!
- *[Open the envelope and read the Big Idea aloud.]* **I can keep learning things — God is with me!**
- Stand up and let's say this together:
 - **I can keep learning things —** (use both pointer fingers to touch side of forehead)
 - **God** (point up)
 - **is with me!** (use thumbs to point to self)

VIDEO | Hear Me Roar, Episode 3

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

ACTIVITY | Mommy & Baby Animal Match

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Call children over to a table or open space on the floor. Show them all the mommy animal pictures and then show them the baby animal pictures. Have them work together to match the mommy to her baby.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Read a few touch-and-feel animal books to the children and allow them to interact with the textures on the pages. Some options include: [Baby board book 1](#), [Baby board book 2](#), and [Baby board book 3](#).

- We can learn so many things here at the Babylon Zoo — like which baby animal belongs to what mommy animal!
 - Bear – Cub
 - Duck – Duckling
 - Elephant – Calf
 - Koala – Joey
 - Zebra – Colt
 - Goat – Kid
- **I can keep learning — God is with me!**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for teaching us new things. Help us to share what we learn with others. Amen.

SHARING TIME

ACTIVITY | Edible Walls

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each child two saltine crackers. Help them spread Nutella onto the crackers. Then allow them to shake a few rainbow sprinkles onto each square. Play a song like “Learning to Be the Light” (Lifetree Kids) as kids eat. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- **What colors do you see in the sprinkles?**
- **What’s your favorite color?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- Kids often give their teachers apples to thank them for teaching them because learning is fun!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Start by handing an apple to one child, then ask that child a question. After they answer, pass the apple to someone who fits the description you give them. Then that child will answer a question.
- **What special item did the king use at the party?**
- **What made the king afraid?**
- **Who helped the king?**
- **Who teaches you things?**
- **How can you be a good listener so you can learn?**

ACTIVITY | The Big Reveal

- In today’s Bible story, Daniel helped the king understand the secret message written on the wall.
- Today, you can reveal your own secret message.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a white crayon to write the secret message, “God is with me,” on one piece of copy paper per child (you may need to press hard with the crayon). Allow the children to cover the surface of their page with watercolor paints to reveal the message. Pro-tip: Don’t forget to provide snack-sized cups with a shallow amount of water for kids to wet their brushes.
- Let’s read what your secret message says.
- **I can keep learning — 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."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Lead the children in saying the verse while they follow you around the room, copying your motions (jumping, crawling, serpentine, twirling, etc.).

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.

ACTIVITY | Wall Mural

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hang a sheet of butcher paper on the wall. Allow the children to write or draw on the paper. You can allow them the freedom to create whatever art they'd like. You could also have them draw pictures of today's Bible story.

ACTIVITY | Writing in the Sand

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set out medium-sized shallow bins filled with kinetic sand on top of a plastic tablecloth. Permit the kids to write messages or scribble shapes in the sand. Provide tools and let them play with the sand freely as well.