

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.)*

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!