

God Rules: Be Strong

Theme & Games

How do you measure someone's strength? If they can lift a heavy weight, are they considered strong? While there are many ways to be strong, a believer in Jesus Christ can be strong in their faith. They can be bold and courageous when faced with challenges. In this series in the book of Daniel the students will face many challenges where they must test their knowledge, their faith and even their strength. The games and activities will reinforce the teaching on God and His strength. Through teamwork and competition, the students will learn some of the lessons Daniel learned while in exile in Babylon. We pray for those who have not trusted in Jesus as their Savior they would make that decisions. We pray they will come to know God and His strength on a more personal level. The children will learn these truths **1.** Honor God! **2.** God Gives Wisdom! **3.** God is the Deliverer! **4.** God is Just! **5.** God is Faithful!

Items Needed

Lesson 1

1. "Honor God" and "Dishonor God" cards (*Active Game*)
2. "Wacky Workout" cards (*Review Game*)

Lesson 2

1. 4 pieces of paper with the Word Up "Ask God for Wisdom" Each word on a separate paper. (*Active Game*)
2. Cards or post it notes with Word Up. Each word on separate card. (*Active Game*)
3. Cards with Ruler, Servant and Wisemen (*Review Game*)

Lesson 3

1. Paper balls. (10-20) (*Active Game 1*)
2. Water bottles. (20-30) (*Active Game 2*)
3. Small soft balls or bean bags (10-15) (*Active Game*)
4. Deliverer- Two or three sets of letters (*Word up*)
5. Envelope with student name on it – God is the deliverer on card (*Word Up*)
6. Four correct ways to respond – Four wrong ways to respond cards (*Review Game*)

Lesson 4

1. 10-15 cards with example of sin written – 10-15 cards with the word Forgiveness and 1 John 1:9 (*Active Game*)
2. Two or three set of balls with the letter to FORGIVEN (*Review Game*)

Lesson 5

1. Cards "Lion, Ruler, Angel, and Daniel" (*Active Game*)
2. Den of Lion card for Zonk (*Review Game*)

Lesson 1 God Is Honored by Four Young Men

Scripture Daniel Chapter 1

Theme: God had told His people the Jews they would continue to live in the land of Israel if they obeyed Him. But they turned away from God. The Babylonians took over their land and took their young men to Babylon to serve the king. Daniel and his three friends' names were changed to honor Babylonians gods. Despite all the challenges and temptation to forsake God they remained faithful to Him. Daniel and his friends honored God and He honored them by helping them in this land far from home. God gives you the strength to obey and honor Him.

Active Game "Honor God or Dishonor God"

Students are divided into two or three teams and lined up. When the music plays one teammate at a time must find a card and bring it back to their team. When all the cards are found the teams count how many "Honor God" and "Dishonor God" cards they have. Whoever has the most "Honor God" cards is the winner. After the game the teacher can briefly talk about what it means to honor God.

Alternative: Write on the cards 3 or 4 situations or decisions that are honoring to God and ones that are not. After all the cards are found ask the kids which decisions are honoring or dishonoring to God.

Word Up: Honor God! – Tell the kids. "If I score the game winning goal then I go around telling everyone I am the best soccer player, who am I honoring? If I study for a test and get a 100% then I tell my friends who got a bad grade that I am smarter than they are, who am I honoring? If my friends are stealing candy from the teacher's desk and then they give some to me and I eat it, who am I honoring? If some friends are making fun of someone and I laugh along with them, who am I honoring. We will hear how Daniel and his friends honored God.

Memory Verse: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might." **Ephesians 6:10**

Intro- (Choose a few children to come up to lift a heavy object or choose a few children to arm wrestle.) They are very strong. Our verse is talking about a different kind of strength. How are we to be strong? **(Resp)**

Pres- Who wrote this? Why they write this letter? **(Resp)**

Exp- God had much to say to the Church. He wanted to them to know where their strength came from. God give them strength.

App- (Saved) What kind of strength does God give you? **(Resp)**
(Unsaved) Place your faith in Jesus as your savior over sin.

Rep- How many time can you rap the verse in 10 seconds or 30 seconds? How many times can your team say the verse before they get all their paper balls in a basket? Team who gets all their paper balls in first is second place. The team who says the verse the most and gets all their balls in first place. Teachers take paper balls out if they catch a team member not saying the verse.

Review Game "Wacky Workout" After each correct answer team choose a card with an action. They do the workout to get points for their team.

Isaiah 53:5-6 *But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.*

Revelation 1:5b *"To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood."*

1 Corinthians 10:31 *"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*

Romans 12:2 *"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*

Items Needed

3. "Honor God" and "Dishonor God" cards (Active Game)
4. "Wacky Workout" cards (Review Game)
5. Paper balls (Memory Verse Repetition)
6. Paper plates (Lesson Illustration)

The first decision is to resolve to give your whole life to Jesus Christ.
John 6:47 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life."*

Lesson 2 God Gives Wisdom to Daniel

Scripture Daniel Chapter 2

Theme: Daniel and his three friends are in a difficult situation. The king has ordered all the wisemen to be killed because they are not able to tell his dream and its meaning. Daniel is given time to pray and seek the Lord. God gives Daniel the dream and its meaning. The glory goes to God who gave Daniel wisdom. The King acknowledge Daniel's God is greatest and promotes Daniel as ruler and chief over all the wisemen. God gives you wisdom when you seek Him.

Active Game: "Seek God's Wisdom"

Write out the words "Ask God for wisdom" on four pieces of paper and place them in the four corners of the room. This can be done outside in a big area. (Example "Ask" is one corner. "God" in another corner.) Give each child one of the words written on a card and have them go to the center of the room. Play some music and have the kids walk around the room, when the music stops, they must quickly go to the corner that matches their card. The whole class will then yell out the phrase. For added fun randomly choose one of the words from a bag. Whoever has that word is given a small candy.

Word Up: Ask God for Wisdom!

Write the sentence on the board or large paper "Ask _____ for _____!" Who should I ask and what do I ask for? (*Kids respond*)

Memory Verse: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who give generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." **James 1:5**

Intro- What are somethings you need help with? (*Write them down*) Who helps you with them? (**Resp**)

Pres- Our verse tells us who to ask when we week lack wisdom.

Expl- What is wisdom? How do we ask God? How does He give us an answer? Will God get mad at us for asking? Will the answer take time?

App- (*Saved*) Keep asking God and trust him to answer. (*Unsaved*) Ask Jesus to forgive you and save you.

Rep- After repeating the verse a few times divide class into two or three teams. Give them the letters to "WISDOM" "ASK GOD" "GIVEN" The letters can be written on different colored post it notes or index cards. The team that can put the letters together correctly first and yell the verse wins. (*Example: "WISDOM" blue cards "ASK GOD" green cards*)

Review Game: "Ruler, Servant, Wisemen and Daniel"

Divide the class into two or three teams. After each right answers the team gets 1,000 points and then they pick a card from a bag. The bag will have cards with Ruler, Servant, Wisemen and Daniel. The team with the most points wins. Wisemen = Zero points. Ruler and Servant = 500 points Daniel = 2,500 points.

Romans 3:10

"None is righteous, no, not even one;"

Romans 5:8

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your path."

Items Needed

4. 4 pieces of paper with the Word Up "Ask God for Wisdom" Each word on a separate paper. (*Active Game*)
5. Cards or post it notes with Word Up. Each word on separate card. (*Active Game*)
6. Cards with Ruler, Servant and Wisemen (*Review Game*)
7. Dry Erase Marker – White Board (*Memory Verse Intro*)
8. 3 Colors of index cards – Letters to Wisdom, Ask God, Given (*Memory Verse Game*)
9. Sentence Fill in the blanks (*Gospel Illustration*)
10. Two Jars – Clorox Bleach – White cloth (*Gospel Activity*)

Lesson 3 God Delivers in the Fiery Furnace

Scripture Daniel Chapter 3

Theme: Daniel's three friends are ordered to bow down to a statue. If they do not, they will be thrown into a fiery furnace. They knew God could deliver them but if He did not, they would still trust God. They are thrown into the fire, but they do not burn. God spared them. There was a fourth person in the fire. The fourth person could have been Jesus or an angel. We don't know for sure. The three friends are released and promoted. The King praised the God of Israel. He makes a rule, if anyone speaks against the God of Israel they are to be killed. God gives His children the strength and courage to obey. He will give us the same courage to be bold.

Active Game: Game 1 "Safe in the fire" or "Protect the middle"

Divide the class into two groups. One group will be in a circle made with yarn or tape. They will be in the fire. Two or three will be chosen in this group to be protected from the paper balls. The other group will be outside the circle. They will be trying to throw paper balls at the ones in the middle who are being protected. If those in the middle are hit by the paper balls the team on the outside wins. If after 1 minute no one is hit the team inside the circle wins.

Game 2 "One minute knock down"

Divide the class into two or three teams. Set up empty water bottles in a circle and place three in the middle of the circle. The teams have one minute to knock down the water bottles with a small ball or bean bag. Each bottle they knock down is worth 100 points. If they knock down the water bottles in the middle their team loses, or they get a minus 100 points. The team with the most points after a minute is the winner. (Use 7-10 water bottles per team)

Word Up: God is the Deliverer!

Tell the class you have a letter for someone. (Write the name of one of the students on an envelope. They must open the letter and read the card. Inside the card is a note that reads, "God is the deliverer". Does God deliverer messages in letters? What does it mean? (**Resp**) Talk about what it means that God is the deliverer. What has God delivered us from? How does He rescue / save us in hard times? **Alternative:** Give two teams the letters to the word "Deliverer". Give them a couple of minutes to put the letters in the correct order.

Memory Verse: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might." **Ephesians 6:10**

Intro- I need some help! I am going to clean up the whole city. Who is wants to help? Is this a job I can do by myself? (**Resp**)

Pres- Paul wrote this. He knew the job was going to be hard.

Expl-He talked about wives and husbands to love each other, children obeying parents. Servant and master to be good to each other's. Could they do all this in their own strength? (**Resp**)

App- (Saved) Rely on God's strength daily. Ask for it! (Unsaved) Trust in Jesus to save you from the greatest problem, sin!

Rep- "**The one-minute basket challenge**" (Set up 5 baskets each with a phrase from the verse taped to it. Provide a basket with plastic or paper balls in them. After repeating the verse several times one student at a time tries to get their ball in the basket. The class as one minute to get all the balls in the basket and yell the verse.)

Review Game: "Stand Strong"

Divide the class into two or three teams after each right answer the teams get 1,000 points and then they pick from a bag. The bag will have four correct ways to respond when others are persecuting you and four incorrect ways to respond. The team reads the cards out loud. If they pick a correct way to respond and yell out the word up, they can double their points. If they select the incorrect response, briefly remind the class, we may feel like responding the wrong way, but God is the deliverer, and He will help you stand strong and act in a way that honors Him.

Correct responses- (1) Pray for them (2) Bless them (3) Love them (4) Do good to them.

Incorrect responses- (1) Hate them (2) Hurt them back (3) Say mean things (4) Give up

Isaiah 53:6 "We all like sheep have gone astray; we have turned- everyone to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Hebrews 9:22 "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin."

John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Three Brothers Rap

“Let me tell you about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (repeat 3x)

Here are three Jewish friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

With another brother Daniel

The king told them to worship and bow down to the golden statue

They said no way

Hey God, can saves us today

But even if, we can never bow

No no we can never bow down (repeat 3x)

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego only worship the one true God

Only the one true God

The one true God

He is our king – He is our everything

Three friends tied and thrown into the fire

Heated seven times hotter (repeat 2x)

The King was astonished, amazed and like wow!

The three Jewish brothers were now four

Walking unbound in the fire.

Let me tell you about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Walking around in the fire

Rescued by the one true God (Repeat 2x)

The king called out Hey Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego servants of

the Most High God!

Saved from the fire - promoted by the king

But living by the power of the king of kings (Repeat 2x)

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego!

It's the one true God who makes you stand strong! (Repeat 2x)

Items Needed

7. Paper balls. (10-20) (*Active Game 1*)
8. Water bottles. (20-30) (*Active Game 2*)
9. Small soft balls or bean bags (10-15) (*Active Game*)
10. Deliverer- Two or three sets of letters (*Word up*)
11. Envelope with student name on it – God is the deliverer on card (*Word Up*)
12. Four correct ways to respond – Four wrong ways to respond cards (*Review Game*)

Lesson 4 God Confronts the Sin of King Belshazzar

Scripture Daniel Chapter 5

Theme: King Belshazzar held a party for all those in his palace even though an army was outside his walls. He drank from the cups brought from Jerusalem made to honor God. He praised the false gods. God caused writing to appear on the wall announcing his kingdom was coming to an end because of his pride. God is serious about our sin. The King refused to listen and obey. Daniel was rewarded but the king was killed. When we sin against God we can be forgiven and made clean. We must ask God to forgive us. To be strong is to be humble before God. To admit your sin and seek the Lord.

Active Game: "The Forgiveness card"

Divide the class into two or three teams. Place 10-15 cards around the room with sins on them (example "Lying to your parents" "Having a bad attitude" "Being selfish and not wanting to help".) Also place around the room 10-15 cards with the word Forgiven and 1 John 1:9 written on it. Give the class one to two minutes to bring back cards to their table or their base. (This can be done as a relay where one teammate at a time finds a card and brings it back.) The team must match up each sin with a forgiveness card. The team with the most matches is the winner.

Word Up: God is just!

Have the class guess the word up sentence. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___! Ask the class what they think it means to be just. Explain how a judge announces a punishment to those who break the law. God does the same thing when we sin. But He has provided a way to be forgiven. The lesson today will talk about a man who did not wish to listen to God.

Memory Verse: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." **1 John 1:9**

Intro- Dirty water made clean illustration. (Show a glass of water with food coloring. Put a drop of bleach in as you talk about forgiveness.)

Pres- God had John write this He wrote the gospel and 1-3 John

Expl- Explain confess, forgiveness, cleanse, and unrighteousness.

App- (Saved) God forgives- you are made new (Unsaved) Believe in Jesus

Rep- (Two or three teams must find phrases to the verse around the room and place them in the correct order to. The team who puts them together first and yells the verse is the winner. Each team has their own color cards)

Jeremiah 31:3 "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you."

Romans 5:8-9 "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath to come."

John 3:36a "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life."

Review Game: "Forgiveness is the winner"

Divide the class into two or three teams. Give each team eight balls with the letters to the word "FORGIVEN". After each right answer the team chooses a card that says 1, 2 or 3 on it. They will get the chance to throw the number of balls that is written on the card into their basket. The team with all or most of their FORGIVEN balls in their basket is the winner. (You can use paper balls rolled up instead of plastic balls.)

Items Needed

1. Cards "Lion, Ruler, Angel, and Daniel" (Active Game)
2. Den of Lion card for Zonk (Review Game)
3. Glass of dirty water – Small container of bleach (Memory Verse introduction)
4. Verses phrases (3 sets in different colors) (Memory Verse)
5. White paper with dark marks – Clean white paper (Gospel Illustration)
6. Wrong way sign (Growth Illustration)

Lesson 5 God Rescues Daniel in the Lion's Den

Scripture Daniel Chapter 6

Theme: Daniel was thrown into a den of lions! Would he die or would God protect him? Daniel proved to be a wise and faithful leader. This made many jealous of him. They told the king he should make a law for 30 days stating everyone must pray to him or be thrown into a den of lions. They knew Daniel would not be able to follow this law. Daniel continued to pray only to the one true God. Daniel was thrown to the lions. God had answered Daniel's prayer by sending angels to shut the lion's mouth. The men who hated Daniel were thrown to the lions. Daniel was faithful to God despite the law and the influence of others. God is faithful to His promises and His children. He will give you the strength to trust Him.

Active Game: "Lions, Rulers, Angel, and the Daniel" Instruct the class to get in a circle. In the middle of the circle will be cards that are face down with either **Lion, Ruler, Angel, or Daniel** written on them. There will be 10-15 of the Lion and Ruler cards, 1 Daniel and 4-5 Angel cards depending on the size of your group. For a larger group put more cards in the center. Play some music for a minute. Have one child at a time grab a card and tell them not to look at it until all the cards are gone. Whoever has the one Daniel card, or the Angel cards are the winners and receives a candy. Play again as time allows. *(If they look at their card before the music stops, they receive no prize)*

Word Up: God is faithful!

I am thinking of something bright, yellow, and warm. What am I thinking of? (**Response**) You wake up every morning and you see it in the sky. God is the same way. He always does what He says He will do. He keeps His promises. You can trust Him all the time. Anything you are going through God is there with you. If you have trusted in Jesus as your Savior, He will never leave you. He is faithful to help you trust in Him.
(Yell out the phrase "God is faithful! All the time!")

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:10 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might."

Intro- Finish the sentence. "God give me strength so I can _____."

Pres- (*Read*) Paul was reminding believers of what? (**Resp**)

Expl- What does God give us strength for? When do we need it?

Appl- (*Saved*) In our prayers we can ask God for the strength to serve Him.

(*Unsaved*) Ask God for the strength to surrender and trust in Jesus.

Rep- Get the class in a circle and have them each say one word from the verse until the whole verse is said. Do it again faster each time.

(*Large group*) Divide the class into several circles. See which team can say the verse the fastest.

Ephesians 2:13 "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

Review Game: "Den of Lions" Zonk

Divide class into two or three teams. After each right answer the team picks a card from a bag. Daniel is worth **1,000 points**. Angel is worth **500 points**. Ruler is worth **100 points**. Lion is the zonk card worth **zero points**.

Lesson 5

3. Cards "Lion, Ruler, Angel, and Daniel" (*Active Game*)
4. Den of Lion card for Zonk (*Review Game*)

Dishonor God

Dishonor God

Dishonor God

Dishonor God

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Honor God

Honor God

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Dishonor God

Dishonor God

Do 3 jumping jacks while wiggling your fingers.

Stomp your feet 4 times while rubbing your stomach.

Clap your hands 3 times above your head.

Stand on 1 foot while you say the alphabet fast.

Touch your toes 3 times while making engine noises.

Clap your hands 4 times behind your back.

Stomp your feet 5 times while touching your ears.

Spin around 1 time without making any noise.

Do 3 jumping jacks with one eye closed.

Ask

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**God is the
Deliverer!**

Pray for them

Bless them

(Do something nice for them)

Love them

(Ask God to show you how)

**Do something
good to them**

Hate them

Hurt them back

**Say mean things
to them**

Give up

**Being selfish and
not wanting to
help.**

**Lying to your
parents or friend.**

**Having a bad
attitude.**

**Stealing from the
snack bar or
store.**

**Fighting with
your sister or
brother.**

**Cheating on your
homework.**

**Staying mad at
someone who has
asked for forgiveness.**

Saying bad words.

**Not listening to
your parents or
teacher.**

**Spending too much
time playing your video
games and not doing
homework.**

**Name your own
sin.**

**Name your own
sin.**

Forgiven

1 John 1:9

Forgiven

1 John 1:9

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Angel

Daniel

Daniel

Lion Den

Angel

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1 John 1:9

**“Finally,
be strong
in the Lord
and in the**

**strength of
his might.”**

Ephesians 6:10