



Date: _____
Series: God in the Storms of Life
Spring Year 4, Lesson 52

Stand Firm in the Faith

Primary Scripture: Daniel 6; 1 Peter 5:8-10

Key Verses: 1 Peter 5:8b, 9a, “Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion as he looks for someone to devour. Be firm in the faith and resist him...”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Satan is described as a lion, seeking those whom he might devour. He will certainly spiritually attack kids and try to pull them away from God. Kids need to identify such a threat and the schemes that would try to pull them away. They can stand firm if they have confidence in Jesus Christ and what he has done for them. Jesus is the ultimate lion tamer, defeating the power of the enemy and the power of sin that separates us from God. As we look to him, we will have strength to stand firm.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus defeated the power of Satan, sin and death through his death and resurrection.

Jesus in us: 1Peter 5:10 says, “God... will restore you, strengthen you, make you strong, and support you...” He will help us spiritually stand firm against such an enemy.

Jesus through us: When we stand against the schemes of the enemy, it is a powerful witness to the world around us. The presence of Jesus will be seen.

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Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Bring a child onstage for an interview. Say to the child:

Let's pretend you are walking through the mountains. You are walking up the path getting close to a ledge of rocks. But when you look up, ten feet away there is a mountain lion. He looks like he would like to pounce. What would you do?

Take answer from the child.

Does everyone agree with this plan? Would anyone else like to share a different plan?

Have the volunteer return to his/her seat.

According to outdoor experts, here are some things to do if you are caught in such a situation. First, stay calm and don't run. Don't let the lion know you are afraid. Secondly, make yourself look bigger than you are. Raise your hands or hold something above your head. Don't crouch down or bend over if you can help it. Thirdly, talk or yell loudly as you look the mountain lion in the eye. Slowly back away as you continue to look the lion in the eye. Finally, if the lion attacks you, fight with whatever you have in your hands and try to keep standing.

How many of you think you will ever face a lion? Probably none of you, but the Bible says to watch out because your opponent is the devil and he prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8b.) The Bible says we should be alert and ready. So you will, at some time, face a lion. That lion is the devil.

Some of the things that work with a mountain lion, work also with the devil. You will have to make yourself appear bigger than you are by calling on God to help you make a stand. You can even speak with authority and tell Satan that he has no power over you because you trust Jesus. If you are attacked, you can always use the weapons that God gives you—the spiritual weapons of prayer and the Bible.

So today we will learn that you do not need to run in fear, instead you can take a stand with God's help. Praising God also causes the enemy, Satan, to run away. Let's do that now.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies: hand-held cross

If Satan is described as a lion, prowling around, searching for whom he might devour, does that mean he is a real lion that will come out and bite you? No. Satan tries to hurt you in another way. He wants to hurt you by telling lies. These are some of his lies:

- “You don’t have to follow God. You can do whatever you want.” That’s a lie.
- “You’ve done something so bad that God would never forgive you.” That’s a lie.
- “God doesn’t really love you. He really doesn’t care.” That’s a lie.

Hold up the cross.

This is what we should think about when we hear any of Satan’s lies. We can think about how Jesus gave his life for us. He died on the cross to forgive all our sin—no matter what we have done. Jesus is alive and is with us wherever we are. No matter what happens, we know God loves us because he gave his Son Jesus. He defeated Satan and his lies. If we believe and trust in Jesus, Satan, who roars like a lion, cannot bite us.

Let’s pray:

Dear God, please help us not listen to any of Satan’s lies. Please protect us and make us strong. Thank you for giving your Son Jesus to be our Savior. In Jesus’ name, we tell Satan that he has no power in our lives. In Jesus’ name, we are forgiven and loved. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies: rope or tape to make a circle on the floor

Sometimes when we say “take a stand” for something or “stand up” for something, it means we really believe in what we are doing and won’t move away from it.

When we give our offerings to God, we are taking a stand for him. We are saying, “I love you and am bringing you a gift of my money.” When we do that, we are not letting the love of money push us away from God. Instead, we are taking a stand.

Come and stand in the circle as you place your offering in the basket. When you put your offering in the basket, you can say, “God, I’m taking a stand for you.”

Discuss your mission project and how the money is going toward others learning more about Jesus, so they will know the truth from the lies of Satan.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Stand Up Tag:

This game is played like regular tag except for two differences. First, there are two people who are “it.” Second, a kid is safe and cannot be caught if he/she stands up, faces “it” and says “safe” before being tagged. If a child is touched on the back and not able to turn and face his/her chaser and/or doesn’t say “safe,” then he/she is “it.”

After the game, talk about the application.

How is this game like us taking a stand against the devil?

The devil prowls around trying to get us to not follow God. But we can face him and be safe when we claim the power of Jesus. If we try to use our own power, that is just like running away and he can get us from behind. We need to always watch for the devil because he wants to sneak up and trap us with his lies.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Option One:

Show the video from Nest Family Entertainment titled: *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel*. Show only the portion involving the story of Daniel in the lions’ den.

Option Two:

The Most Amazing Lion Tamer

Audience Participation Storytelling

Have a costumed character dressed as a lion tamer dressed in a safari hat and khaki shirt tell the story about the greatest lion tamer of all time.

Optional props: a whip and stool

Introduction:

Hello, my name is Leon, the amazing lion tamer. I have tamed lions from the darkest jungles of Africa to the highest peaks of Peru. I've mastered the mighty lion in Antarctica and I found him in Kalamazoo. I can tell you are probably impressed with how amazing I am. But though I am an amazing lion tamer, there is one greater than I. I am going to tell you his story. When I do, I'll need your help.

Anytime I cup my hand around my ear and go like this (illustrate by bringing your hand around your ear as if to hear better), you need to make a sound or repeat the words in the story. If I talk about the wind blowing and cup my ear, I'd like to hear you make the sound of wind blowing. Or if I talk about trumpets sounding and I cup my ear, I'd like you to sound like a trumpet.

Whenever an asterisk is seen in the dialogue, cup the ear and listen for a response from the kids.

Captive Daniel:

Along time ago in a kingdom far away, there was a man of God known as Daniel. He was held captive in a land called Babylon. Perhaps you were thinking to yourself, "Oh no."* But it really wasn't so bad, as his mighty God was with him, and Daniel served God day and night. So God blessed Daniel and gave him a high position in the land. But even if Daniel weren't in charge of the whole kingdom, there is no king Daniel would serve more than the true and living God. "Yea, God."*

Sneaky officials and a new rule:

But in this kingdom there were other officials with evil in their hearts. They were jealous of Daniel and would sneak around. *What is a sneak around sound?** I think I hear them sneaking around. *That is definitely a sneaking around sound*.*

These officials were looking for a way to accuse Daniel. They knew that three times a day he prayed to his God. So they said to themselves, “Aha.* Let’s get King Darius to make a rule of no praying to any God. People must pray to the king himself.”

They went to the king. The trumpets announced them.* They said, “Make a rule that for 30 days no one is to pray unless they pray to you. After all, you are the king.”

“Sounds reasonable,” said the king. “Where do I sign?”

“Sign right here,” said the sneaky officials.

I think I hear a pen signing the new rule right now.* *I think that pen has a few problems.*

Hearing Daniel pray:

When Daniel heard about the new law, he went back to his house, went up to his room, and opened his windows. I think I hear him opening his windows now.*

He faced Jerusalem. He felt the wind coming from the west.* I said he felt the wind coming from the west.* He knelt on his knees and honored the living God—the God whom he served. Three times a day, he opened the window,* felt the wind,* and bowed to pray.

One of those times, the officials were sneaking around outside Daniel’s door.* *Yes, they are loud sneakers. **

When they came into Daniel’s room, they found him praying. “Aha,”* they said. “Caught ya.”* They took him to the king to be punished.

“Didn’t you decree that for the next 30 days no one was to pray except to you?” asked the sneaky officials.

“Uh-huh,” said the king.*

“Didn’t you say that anyone caught would be punished?”

“Uh-huh,” said the king.*

“Didn’t you say that anyone caught would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

“Uh-huh,” said the king.*

“Well, we found Daniel praying to his God, ignoring your commands,” said the sneaky officials.

“Not Daniel,” said the king. “He is a good man.”

Taking Daniel to the lions’ den:

“But didn’t you sign the law?” asked the sneaky officials.

“Uh-huh,” said the king.*

“The law cannot be broken, can it?” asked the sneaky officials.

“Nope,” said the king.

“That means Daniel has to go to the lions’ den,” said the sneaky officials.

“Uh-huh,” said the king.*

So off they went to throw Daniel into the lions’ den. However, before Daniel was thrown into the den, the king said to him, “May your God, the one whom you worship, save you.”

Daniel said, “Uh-huh.”**

The sneaky officials counted to three* and threw Daniel in the lions’ den. Then there was a stone placed over the opening of the den. The king put his seal on the stone with his ring and waited throughout the night.

What was the result?

The king was troubled. He could not sleep and he did not eat. I think I can hear his stomach growling now.* Quickly, the next morning he went to the lions’ den and had the stone rolled away. He expected to hear the lions roaring.* But he didn’t hear a kitty cat meow.*

“Daniel,” the king called, “are you all right?”

Daniel called back, “My God sent an angel and shut the lions’ mouths. They could not hurt me. God knew I was innocent.”

The king was overjoyed and said “Hurray.”* But the sneaky officials said “Oh, no!”*

Daniel was taken out of the lions’ den. “Hurray.”*

The sneaky officials were put into the lions’ den. “Oh, no!”* This time, the lions didn’t meow, but they roared.* *That is their sound when they are having lunch.*

Application:

Learning point:

What did you learn from Daniel’s standing for God?

King Darius learned it well. He watched Daniel take a stand and place his faith in the one and only true God. Daniel would bow to no other. King Darius realized that Daniel’s God was the one and only true God. King Darius made a new rule that all should pray and bow to the one true God for he was able to save Daniel from the lions’ mouths.

Whether we are big or small, short or tall, old or young, we can take a stand as Daniel did.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Let kids tell about a time they took a stand for God and he proved he was faithful and protected them.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Power of the Cross:

- hand-held cross

Offering:

- rope or tape to make a large circle on the floor

Bible Presentation:

Option One:

- *The Animated Stories of the Bible: Daniel*, produced by Nest Family Entertainment—order from www.nestfamily.com. Go to the menu on the left side and link to Children’s Bible Stories. Type the word “Daniel” in the search box and enter. Follow the ordering instructions.

Option Two:

- volunteer dressed in khaki shirt and safari hat
- *option:* a whip and chair

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