

Hear Me Roar

Week 2

BIG IDEA

I'm not alone — God is with me!

BIBLE

The Fiery Furnace: Daniel 3

FREE TIME

PLAY | Free Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tables will be set with games and activities for kids to play until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to get to know some kids and work on building relationships.
- Have kids go to the bathroom prior to class beginning

LARGE GROUP TIME

QUESTION | Animal Kingdom Experts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This question will be written on the board as a discussion starter while kids arrive.*
- **If you could be any animal, what would you want to be and why?**

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.*
 - "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)

INTRO

SAY...

Welcome back to *Hear Me Roar*, where we get to share in the adventures happening around the Babylon Zoo! I'm the zookeeper here, and I can't wait to show you around. The capybaras just had babies last night, so I have been ooh-ing and aah-ing over those sweet things all morning! I'll show you pictures later but tell me, **what's your favorite baby animal?**

WHAT?

ACTIVITY | Otter Tag

- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS:** Display the picture of the "otter raft" on the TV. *To start the game, choose one kid to be "it." This kid will try to tag the rest. Once tagged, the kids will link arms and both kids will be "it" together. Only the kids on the ends of the chain can tag others. The game ends when there is only one otter left unattached to the raft. They are the winner!*
- Let's make our way to the otter exhibit. Did you know that otters link arms when they're eating, sleeping, or resting? A group of otters is called a raft! *[Show picture.]*
- In our next game, you'll all be otters creating your own raft!
- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS:** Today we're going to play a version of tag where one person will be it, but when they tag someone, that person has to link up with them - like an otter raft. Then, only the people on the outside of raft will be allowed to tag. We'll play until everyone has been tagged except one lonely little otter. But, that will be our winner!
- Unlike our lonely little otter, who's probably very happy to be alone (and win), most people that are lonely feel sad. But there's good news, when we follow God we're never truly alone.

SO WHAT?

SCRIPTURE | Daniel 3 (The Fiery Furnace)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Dressed as a zookeeper, tell the Bible story from the zookeeper's perspective, reading from Daniel 3 when prompted. Prepare to show pictures of the following animals: [capybaras](#) and [sun bears](#).*
- It's another exciting day at the Babylon Zoo. *[Show pictures as you talk about the animals.]* The capybaras had their babies last night, and the sun bears set a climbing world record.
- And our animals aren't the only ones with big things happening this week!
- **Do you remember our guest from last week, Daniel, and his friends who were brought from Jerusalem to Babylon? Does anyone remember the names of Daniel's friends?**
- Well, the most incredible thing happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego . . . and I've got to tell you about it!
- *[Read Daniel 3:1-6.]*
 - King Nebuchadnezzar didn't follow God, and wanted everyone in his kingdom to bow to him instead! This was a problem for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego because they were from Israel and had grown up knowing they were to worship only the one true God.
 - Listen to what a messenger told King Nebuchadnezzar.
 - *[Read Daniel 3:12]*
 - Our friends refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's statue, the king got really mad.

- [Read Daniel 3:19–23.]
 - You'd think this was the part of the story in which our three friends were gone for good. But God had another plan — one far greater than anything King Nebuchadnezzar could scheme up!
- [Read Daniel 3:24–28.]
 - Not only did God protect Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, a fourth person was walking around with them in the fire. It must have been an angel or something! When the three friends came out of the furnace, they weren't even singed or smelling like campfire like we sometimes do after roasting marshmallows. God saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and showed them they weren't alone!
- I know you all came to the zoo to look at some more animals but I hope this is the thing you remember most from today's visit! What a story!

VIDEO | Hear Me Roar, Episode 2 (OPTIONAL)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *To re-inforce what they heard from the story, you can play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

BIG IDEA | I'm not alone — God is with me!

- Just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not alone, we don't ever have to be alone either. When we choose to follow God we can always know that He is with us wherever we go.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *On the whiteboard will be a picture of a lion, pretend to have a hard time opening the mouth of the lion to retrieve the big idea inside. Or, invite a kid up to retrieve the big idea.*
- That's our Big Idea this week: **I'm not alone — God is with me!** Let's shout — or should I say, *roar* — the Big Idea! Stand up and *roar* that **I'm not alone — God is with me!**

NOW WHAT?

MEMORY VERSE | Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

- That is such a great reminder! Our memory verse this month also reminds us that God cares for us.
- Repeat it after me for practice and then we'll try something silly. *[Say verse, having students repeat]*
- Remember the otter raft? Let's practice our verse like the otters would. I'll call on you one at a time to come to the front and say 1 word from our verse. Then, the next person will link arms and say the next word. We'll continue building our otter raft until we've said the whole verse together.
 - **"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him."**
- Let's pray before we head to our small groups.

PRAYER

- God, thank you that I'm not alone. Even when I feel like there's no one to help me, I trust you are there. Thank you for my friends and family who remind me of your love. Help me be there to support and help others in the way you've helped me. Thank you for making impossible things possible. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not bow down to the gold statue?**
- **How do you think they felt when they were told they would be thrown into the fiery furnace?**
- **What do you think helped Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brave when they faced the flames?**
- **When was a time you felt alone?**
- **How did that make you feel? What did you do about it?**
- **When was a time you felt God was with you?**

MEMORY VERSE | Nahum 1:7 (NIV)

- Practice the memory verse with the kids in your group.
 - **"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him."**
- Award tokens for kids that can say the verse from memory.
- Get prizes!

ACTIVITY | Ant Race (OPTIONAL)

- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS:** Show a [picture of the ants](#) that build bridges. Then, have one kid come to the front, get on all fours, and try to balance a beach ball on their back. Then divide the kids into pairs, have them stand back-to-back and link arms. Place a beach ball between their backs and have them race around the room with the ball between their backs.
- Now this next exhibit is not really an exhibit. It's an animal that we see all the time almost everywhere. **Can you guess what animal it might be?** It's ants!
- Normally, I don't like bugs of any kind, but this picture started to convince me ants might be awesome!
- [Show image.]
- Ants are able to accomplish amazing things because they are together. Sometimes, we may feel like we can't tackle a big task in front of us, but God can create a bridge! Often times, God helps us conquer the impossible by giving us other people. One way we're reminded

that God is with us is by noticing our friends and family members.

- We're going to race around the room carrying these beach balls on our backs. *[Have one kid come to the front, get on all fours, and try to balance the ball on their back while moving across the room]* That seems pretty impossible, right? But now let's try it with two people working together!
- *[Divide the students into pairs.]* Each of you are going to take turns racing around the room with your partner, carrying the beach ball. Here's the catch: You can't use your hands or legs! You have to carry the ball between your backs! *[Have leaders place the ball between their backs to get them started, and start the race.]*
- Great job, everyone! What was impossible alone was possible when you worked together!