

# Ms My Story

## 1. CONVERSATION STARTER

### Supplies:

- None

### Leader Tip:

- The Conversation Starter is a great way to make everyone feel welcome and build community! Use it to set the tone for your group's time together.

### Instructions:

- As the students arrive, welcome them and gather everyone in a group.
- Check in quickly to see how their week went.
- Ask: If you were trapped on a desert island and could only bring one person with you, who would it be? Why?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their responses with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Explain that in today's God Story, three friends end up in an unfortunate place and their "plus one" is the perfect addition.

## 2. INTRO ACTIVITY

### Supplies:

- None

### Instructions:

- Play a game of Would You Rather...? Read each set of options and then prompt the students to vote by standing up to choose the first one or staying seated to choose the second option.
- Say, "Would you rather...":
  - "...get a free motorcycle or a free hot air balloon?"
  - "...live in the Sahara or Antarctica?"
  - "...have no hair at all or be covered head to toe in it?"

- "...be able to watch only the few movies with a Rotten Tomatoes score of 95-100% fresh or only the greater number of movies with lower scores?"
  - "...be transported permanently 500 years into the future or 500 years into the past?"
  - "...disappoint your parents or your friends?"
  - (Important final question) "...be known for what you believe in or be known for blending in the crowd?"
- Introduce this week's Big Idea: **When our faith is active, we can see God at work.**

# Gs God Story Ls Life Story

## 3. WEEKLY VIDEO

### Supplies:

- Video file

### Instructions:

- Play the video. It contains:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego | Daniel 3)
  - Life Story (When Audrie moved to France as part of a school exchange program, she struggled with being away from home. However, she learned to depend on God to see her through the tough times.)



## 4. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

### Supplies:

- Bibles

### Leader Tips:

- Don't assume the students know how to look up Bible passages. Demonstrate how to find books, chapters, and verses, and provide help as needed.
- Need a little help pronouncing Nebuchadnezzar's name? It's "neh-byou-cud-NEZ-er."

### Instructions:

- Discuss:
  - What's this month's Key Verse? (Hebrews 11:1)
  - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
  - What was the God Story about?
- Invite four volunteers to stand up. Divide them into pairs.
- Tell one person from each pair they can only change positions when their partner moves them. The "mover" will try to answer the following questions by putting their partner into that action/position:
  - King Nebuchadnezzar asked everyone to worship the statue when certain music was played by one of these instruments. Put your partner into the pose of playing one of them. (e.g., horn, flute, harp)
  - The king told them to do this in front of the statue. (bow)
  - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego wouldn't bow down, so they stayed in this position. (stand up)
  - When we worship today, we don't often bow. What does it look like for us to worship during musical worship? (e.g., hands raised or mid-clap)

- Thank the volunteers and have them sit back down.
- Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed.
- Guide the students to find Daniel 3.
- Discuss:
  - What do you think it means to worship something?
  - We don't have that many statues around, so what do you think people today worship?
- Read Daniel 3:13, 19-20.
- Discuss: What happened when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't follow the world?
- Read Daniel 3:17-18.
- Discuss:
  - How did the three men respond to the danger they faced?
  - When or how might following God be difficult for you?
  - How can we follow Jesus fully, with the kind of faith that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had?
- Note that when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego decided to put their faith in God, he didn't reveal himself right away. They were arrested, yelled at, and thrown into a fire before God saved them miraculously. God doesn't always work in the ways we think he will—but he is with us in tough times.
- Discuss: If we put God first, how might we see him at work in our lives?

## 5. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

### Supplies:

- Pens
- Paper

### Leader Tip:

- Adjust this activity as needed depending on the maturity level of your group.

### Instructions:

- If possible, have everyone spread out around your group's space.
- Offer the students pens and paper to write or draw their prayers.
- Note that having faith like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego can be hard! We face all kinds of tough situations and "would you rather" moments every day. Fortunately, we don't face these situations alone! Jesus promises that his followers (even the young ones) will have the Holy Spirit—that's God living in our hearts! By getting in tune with what the Holy Spirit wants, we can find the courage to make hard decisions and start to see God in new ways!
- Explain that as a faith-building exercise and to connect with the Holy Spirit, the group is going to practise praying together. After you say each phrase below, the students will have a minute to practise talking or writing to God about it:
  - God, you have given me many good gifts.
  - God, there are some things I'm worried about.
  - God, there are times when it's hard to follow you.
  - God, thank you that because of Jesus, I am forgiven and free.
  - God, help me see you in times when it's difficult.
- To wrap up the prayer time, say, "In Jesus' name we pray, amen!"

## Os Our Story

## 6. DISMISSAL

### Supplies:

- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards

### Instructions:

- Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- Make sure the students have their take-home materials.
- Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.