



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

Thank kids for coming.

Just for fun, have kids pat the people next to them on the back.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “feliz cumpleaños” (fay-LEES coom-play-AHN-yos) (“happy birthday” in Spanish).

Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we'll learn that God helps us stand strong. That means God helps us make good choices and stick to them, even when it's hard. The Bible tells about three young friends who stood strong through a scary adventure. Let's start today by talking about adventures we've had.**

Share

Share about an adventure *you've* had. You might share about a time you were lost, or about a new activity or place you experienced.

In small groups, have kids share about adventures *they've* had. They might share about an exciting ride they went on or a new place they went; even an imaginary adventure is okay.

After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Adventures don't always turn out how we expect them to, and sometimes they can even be scary. The Bible tells about three friends who God helped to stand strong through some really scary stuff. God helps us stand strong, too. The Bible helps us understand what it means to stand strong. God talks to us through the Bible. Let's listen to God as we hear from the Bible today.**

Pray, thanking God that he helps us stand strong.



MUSIC VIDEO

God With Us

[10 min]

Supplies

- “God With Us” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Stand Together” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Wisdom Wave” (watch or download [here](#))

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

James’ Story

[10 min]

Supplies

- “James’ Story” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter’s DVD here.

Discuss and Watch “James’ Story”

Say: Today we’re learning that **God helps us stand strong**. In our Bible story, God helped Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stand strong in a place where it was hard to follow God.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you felt different or weird because you love Jesus.** Share your own example first.

Say: **Let’s learn about a boy named James who stands strong even though he lives in a country where there aren’t a lot of other Christians. Watch for ways he stands strong!**

Watch “James’ Story.”

Ask: • **What are some things James does to stand strong as a Christian every day?**

• **What are some things you do to stand strong each day?**

Say: **God helps us stand strong**. Even if we live in a country with a lot of other Christians, we still need to stand strong. Sometimes people might make fun of us for being Christians or try to get us to disobey God. But **God helps us stand strong**.



Supplies

- strips of cloth, each approximately 24x4 inches (1 per child)
- “Construction Tools” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- paper lunch bags (1 per child)
- adhesive-backed Velcro strips (4-inch length per child)
- crayons
- stickers
- child-safe scissors
- permanent marker
- stapler



Easy Prep

- Keep the paper lunch bags folded flat, and cut the tops off the bags so they're about 6 inches long. Then, with a permanent marker, write “God helps me stand strong” on the front of each paper bag.
- Staple the back side of a bag (the side of the bag with the folded bottom) to the middle of a cloth strip. You'll need 1 bag per cloth strip. Make sure to staple only 1 side of each bag so kids will be able to slip the construction tools pictures inside.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.

Make a Tool Belt

Show kids the sample craft.

Say: **Tools can help us make buildings that stand strong. Since we're learning today that God helps us stand strong, let's make a tool belt to help us remember that.** Show kids that today's Bible point is written on the pocket of the tool belt.

Give kids each a Construction Tools handout, and let them color the picture of the tools with crayons. When kids finish coloring, have them cut out each picture from the handout. Younger kids can cut along the dotted lines, and older children can follow the black outlines of the tools.

While kids are working, measure the correct length for each child's tool belt by wrapping the cloth around his or her waist and cutting off any extra fabric. Then lay out the fabric and let the kids add Velcro to one end of the fabric. Flip the cloth over and add the second Velcro strip to the other end of the cloth. (This way the Velcro will line up correctly when kids put on the belts.)

Once kids have made their belts, they can decorate the paper-bag pockets with crayons and stickers before placing their paper tools inside them. Let kids try on their tool belts when finished.

Say: **A tool belt holds the tools people need to build things that will stand strong, like a fence or a treehouse or a table. And God helps us stand strong by giving us tools, too. God's tools aren't things like a hammer or saw, though. Instead, God helps us stand strong by giving us our families who can be with us to encourage us and help us. God also gives us the Bible, which we can learn from to know what to do when things are hard. And God also gives us the chance to come to church to learn more about how much he loves us!**



Supplies

- “Places” handout (download [here](#))
- music player
- music
- *Friends With God Story Bible* (optional) (order [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Hang each of the 4 pages from the handout in 4 corners of your room.

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today’s lesson during the game. You can find the album [here](#).

March and Pray

Say: **Today we learned that God helps us stand strong. That means we can make a right choice and stick with it. In the Bible story, God helped three friends stand strong, even when they faced something scary. God is with us all the time, too. He helps us stand strong wherever we go. Let’s play a game to help us think about that.**

Explain that you’ll play music, and everyone will march together. When the music stops, everyone will go to the nearest picture hanging on the wall. Begin the music, and lead kids in marching strongly around the room. Have an adult or teen helper stop the music randomly.

Lead all the kids to the nearest picture hanging on the wall. Then say: **God helps us stand strong when we’re** [at the park, at school, with friends, or at the store]. Give an example of a way God might help kids stand strong, and then lead a short prayer, asking for God’s help. Turn on the music and repeat until all of the pictures on the walls have been visited. Here are some examples of things you might say for each location:

- Park: If someone pushes us at the park, God can help us stand strong by not pushing back and by telling an adult what happened.
- School or church: If others in our class aren’t doing what the teacher said, God can help us stand strong by making a right choice to obey the teacher.
- With friends: If a friend wants us to do something we know is wrong, God can help us stand strong by saying no.
- A store: If we’re tempted to take candy off a shelf, God can help us stand strong by not taking anything that our parents don’t pay for.

If time allows, visit the pictures more than once and invite children to think of new ways God can help them stand strong. You can also invite them to pray for God’s help.

If you have extra time, spend some time reading today’s Bible story, “All Fired Up—by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,” from the *Friends With God Story Bible*.

Say: **God’s with you all the time—you can ask him to help you stand strong anytime. I hope you’ll come back to church next week so we can learn more about God together.**