Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade Schedule

Conviction: Standing for what is right, even when others don’t.

BIBLE STORY
The Writing on the Wall • Daniel 5

BOTTOM LINE
You can stand for what’s right, even when it’s not popular.

MEMORY VERSE
“Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power.” Ephesians 6:10, NIV

BASIC TRUTH:
I can trust God no matter what.

9:30-9:45 - Arrival of students - Attendance sheet, offering, arrival activities (games, puzzles, books available on tables).

As children arrive, do activity:
1. Early Arriver Idea - p. 7

9:45 -9:50 - Lead to Large Group time in room 118

9:50-10:15 - Large Group Room
The Bible story will be taught and learned in the large group room in creative Bible storytelling fashion. Please stay with your group to facilitate focus and participation. (Summer schedules began in June, so 3rd - 5th graders will join you for combined large group!)

10:20-10:40 - Small Group Time

• Activity 3. Tower Builders p. 11
• Activity 1. Act it Out p. 9

10:40-10:45 - Pray and Dismiss p. 11

10:45 - Dismissal - Parent Pick-up - Please ensure that the parents are remaining outside the door and one at a time dismiss the children and ensure the CSN is being verified.

*Please note all areas of Children's Ministry are Peanut Sensitive area!
FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CONVICTION AND GOD’S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD’S BIG STORY

This summer we’ll be spending June and July discovering more about what the Bible has to say about conviction—standing for what’s right, even when others don’t.

Lots of people have conviction, but often when they act with conviction they come across as arrogant or smug. But that’s not what conviction is about at all. It’s not about what a person thinks is right because it’s too easy to become convicted about the wrong thing. Conviction has to be rooted in something deeper and more dependable than a personal opinion. It needs to be rooted in Scripture and what God says is right. And often it’s not even just standing for something that’s right; it’s also about standing for something that’s right in the right way. And that takes some practice, especially because standing for what’s right and showing conviction, may not win any popularity contests.

That’s why we’re taking the summer to help kids understand a little bit more about Conviction. Conviction is standing for what’s right, even when others don’t. Let’s take Jesus for example.

Even for Jesus, the Son of God, it wasn’t always popular to do the right thing.
Sometimes doing the right thing meant hanging out with tax collectors, blessing the little children, or even forgiving someone who had done something wrong. No matter what it was that Jesus needed to do, He did it because it was the right thing to do.

But doing the right thing often made Jesus stand apart from some of the rich and powerful people of His time. They didn’t like what He was doing or saying, but Jesus never let those crowds persuade Him to go against what God, His Father, wanted Him to do. Even when it meant going to the cross to die, Jesus knew that it was the right thing, and He did it.

Jesus was able to live with conviction because He knew the will of His Father, and that gave Him strength and courage. In the same way, God has given us the ability to know what is right and the ability to do it. You see, when we are fueled by God’s character, we will stand up for the things that matter to God.

This week we’re discovering ...
For week two of July we’ll look at Daniel 5. After several years have passed, there’s a new king in town: Belshazzar. He threw a huge party for his friends, but then a hand appeared and started writing on the wall. Daniel came and interpreted the writing. Even though what he said would definitely put a damper on the festivities, he told the king the truth.

Bottom Line: You can stand for what’s right, even when it’s not popular.
God can help you stand for what’s right, even when what you need to say might not be the news people want to hear.

Our memory verse for the month is Ephesians 6:10, “Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on His mighty power.” No matter the situation, God’s power can help you when you need to have conviction.
CONVICTION
Standing for what is right even when others don't.

WEEK 2

PLUG IN: FOCUS THE ENERGY
Focus the energy on today's Bible story in a Small Group setting with an engaging discussion question and an interactive opening activity.

BIBLE STORY:
WALL SHOOK UP
Daniel 5

BOTTOM LINE:
You can stand for what's right, even when it's not popular.

MEMORY VERSE:
"Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power."
Ephesians 6:10, NIV

BASIC TRUTH:
I can trust God no matter what.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray for the kids as they learn and unpack God's truth about what He says is right. Pray that they would WANT to know what God has to say about how they live their lives and that they would have the desire to stand for what's right. Ask God to lead you to speak the specific truths that kids need to hear today.

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA
What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:
Greet kids as they arrive and encourage them to place their offerings in the container. Talk about their favorite things. What is their favorite: ice cream flavor, sport, TV show, food, afterschool activity, color, shape, holiday?

2. WHAT'S POPULAR?
What You Need: "What's Popular?" Activity Page

What You Do:
Read through the pairs of options on the "What's Popular" Activity Page to the kids in your group. Let each child vote for their favorite of the two options. Make sure to record how many kids chose each option in the box on the Activity Page. At the end, review their choices, pointing out which of the two choices was the most popular with your group. Explain that the word popular means "the most well-liked option, or the option that appeals to the most people." Ask the group what might happen if you compared your list to another group's list. Would they have the exact same popular choices?
CONVICTION
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What You Say:
“I can’t believe you like chocolate (or a different choice on the sheet) ice cream more than vanilla! But these are the most popular choices in our group today. In Large Group today, we’re going to hear about someone who got some pretty unpopular news. Let’s go find out what it was!”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.
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CATCH ON: MAKE THE CONNECTION
Make the connection of how today’s Bible story applies to real life experiences through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. ACT IT OUT! (review the Bible story / application activity / great for active learners)
What You Need: A crown, a towel, party horns, plastic cups, a glove, and butcher paper, taped to the wall near your Small Group area

What You Do:
Act out the Bible story with the script below. Assign parts to the kids in your group from the list below and give them the associated prop.

Roles
King Belshazzar
Daniel
Party goers (can be more than one child)
noisemakers
Servants (can be more than one child)
Hand that wrote on the wall

Props
A crown
A towel
Party horns, shakers, other
Plastic cups
Butcher paper; glove

Tips for keeping kids’ attention when they’re not directly participating: Ask them to sit with their legs crossed (if on the floor) until it’s their turn to do something. If you need to get the group’s attention again, pause and wait for them to settle down before you keep reading.

What You Say:
“Are you guys ready to act out our Bible story today? Does everybody have props? Okay, here we go.

“Once upon a time there was a king. His name was Belshazzar. Take a bow, king. (Pause as child responds.)

“One day, the king decided to have a party. A big party. So, he invited all the important people in the kingdom. Go ahead, party people. Let me see your awesome dance moves. (Pause as party goers respond.)
"Just as the party was starting to rock, the king had an idea. Go ahead, king; show us what it looks like to have an idea. (Pause as the “king” responds.) Except this idea wasn’t a good one. Not at all. The king decided to send his subjects to God’s temple to collect some of the sacred objects and bring them back to the party. Now, why was this a bad idea? Can any of you partygoers tell me why? (Pause as child responds.) That’s right. These items belonged in the temple. God’s temple. To remove them and use them for anything else was very disrespectful to God. But the King went through with it anyway. Okay, royal subjects. Pretend to gather the items from God’s temple and bring them to the party. (Pause as kids respond.)

“Well, something crazy happened. All of a sudden, a hand appeared from nowhere and started writing on the wall. Go ahead, hand. Do your thing. (Pause as the child playing the “hand” responds.) When the hand started writing, everyone gasped. Everyone, give me your best gasp. Did anyone understand what the writing meant? (Pause for responses.) Well, there was ONE person who did? And who was that? (Pause for responses.) That’s right! Daniel. Come on up, Daniel. Daniel, with God’s help, was able to tell the king exactly what the writing meant. Daniel told the king that God wasn’t happy with the way he was leading, that he would soon lose his job as king and that his kingdom would be divided.

“Let me ask you guys a question. Do you think any of this news was popular with the king? No way. But Daniel was still brave enough to share it. Thankfully, the king listened to Daniel. King, shake Daniel’s hand. Great job, everybody. Let’s take all your props and put them back in the box and gather back on our carpet (or in your Small Group area) for a minute.

“Daniel was willing to say the right thing—the hard thing—even though he had NO idea how the king would respond. It’s not easy to tell somebody they’re doing something wrong. The easier thing to do would have been to just tell the king something else. But Daniel had conviction. God wanted him to give the king the hard message so Daniel did the RIGHT thing even if it wasn’t popular. And the only reason he could do that was because God was on his side. And He’ll be on your side too when you choose to stand with conviction.

“*You can trust that when you stand up for what’s right, you’re not alone. Just like He was with Daniel, God will be with you when you choose to do the right thing, even if it’s not the choice that everyone else seems to be making. You can stand for what is right, even if it’s not popular.*

* 2. SWISH! (application activity)*

What You Need: Masking tape, scrap paper, piece of prepared poster board, sticky notes, making sure to place the sticky notes over the point values so the kids can’t see them
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WEEK 2

What You Do:
Hang the poster board from the doorway or in the corner of the room. Make sure the point values are covered up for the first round so the kids can’t see them. Give each kid a piece of paper. Instruct kids to tear the paper into three pieces and wad each piece into a ball. Put a piece of tape down to mark a starting line at least three feet back from the poster. Let the kids take their three turns throwing their paper wads into the target. When finished, reveal the point values. Then let them play again.

What You Say:
“This game was the OPPOSITE of what you thought! The popular choice was to throw your paper wad into the bigger hole, right? But in this case, throwing into the smaller hole had a bigger payoff. ♥ (Share an age-appropriate example of a time you did the right thing, even when it wasn’t popular.)

Sometimes, it just seems like doing the popular thing is the best thing. But that’s not always the case. The key is to listen to what God has to say, to follow His Word and to trust that His way is the best way. And even if you feel all alone or like you’re the only one making the wise choice, God is on your side. You can stand for what is right, even if it’s not popular.”

3. TOWER BUILDERS (memory verse activity)
What You Need: Plastic cups, “Memory Verse Cards” Activity Page, clear tape

What You Do:
Review Ephesians 6:10 together as a group. Show the group how to stack the cups, top to top, bottom to bottom to create a tall tower. Tape the cards to the cups, one card per cup. Make sure to tape the cards to the cups correctly so that when you stack them up, you can read the verse. Let the kids practice building a tower with their cups and saying the memory verse aloud together. When finished, they can knock the cups down, build their tower again and repeat the verse as time permits.

What You Say:
“Was it easy or difficult to knock down our cup tower? (Pause for responses.) It was pretty easy, wasn’t it? What could we do to make our tower stronger? (Pause for responses. Examples: tape the cups together; have the kids hold them in place; etc.) I know it can be hard sometimes to stand up for what is right, especially if you feel like everyone else is doing just the opposite. ♥ This verse reminds us that we don’t have to stand up for what is right on our own. God is with us and our strength to show conviction comes from Him! You can stand for what is right, even if it’s not popular. God will give you the strength you need to show conviction and do the right thing.”
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WEEK 2

PRAY AND DISMISS
What You Need: Paper, markers

What You Do:
Ask kids to quickly draw a picture of a situation recently where it was hard to do the right thing because the people around them weren’t doing the right thing. Maybe everyone else was goofing off during center time while they were trying to follow directions. Or maybe a parent asked all the kids in the house to clean their rooms, but all the older siblings were ignoring that parent.

What You Say:
“I know that standing up for what is right can be really hard, especially when it seems like it’s not the most popular choice. But the truth is that doing the right thing is the RIGHT thing. Always. Even if it’s not popular, even if you feel like you’re the only one, even if you’d rather do something else, God wants us all to remember that we STILL need to show conviction. Let’s pray and ask God to help us do that this week.

“Dear God, you are an awesome God. Thanks for reminding us today that we can stand for what is right, even if it’s not popular. When we’re faced with a situation like the one we drew on our papers from this past week, help us to remember that you are with us and ready to help us stand with conviction. Help us to trust that your way is the best way because we know you love us. And we love you. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent Cue cards as adults arrive for pick-up.