HEAVEN'S KINGDOM: LIVING FOR THE KING

REMEMBER THAT I COMMANDED YOU TO BE STRONG AND BRAVE. SO DON'T BE AFRAID. THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE WITH YOU EVERYWHERE YOU GO. JOSHUA 1:9 (ICB)

AFTER WORSHIP:

BIBLE PRESENTATION:

Live Host:
"Alright Victory Kids — now I need everyone's attention, because this moment is super special!" *(Pauses for effect)* "Here at Victory Kids, we love when friends come to visit... but we REALLY love when they come back again... and again... and again!"*(Smiles big)*

"So today, if this is your **third time** hanging out with us here at Victory Kids, we've got something AWESOME just for you!" "If that's you — go ahead and **raise your hand nice and high** so our team can spot you. Come to the stage because we want to celebrate you BIG TIME!" We have something really special that we want to give you..."*(Team members hand out Bibles)* "A brand-new **Bible** just for YOU! Because we believe God's Word is the best gift ever — it's full of hope, adventure, truth, and it reminds us every day who we are and how much God loves us!"

Can we clap it up and make some noise for our third-time friends getting their Bibles today?!"*(Claps hands, and waits for applause, celebrates big)*. And if you're sitting there thinking, 'Hey, I want a Bible like that!' — no worries! Keep coming, keep learning, and we'll have something for you too!"

CONNECT: CHECK IN / PRE SERVICE GAMES

10 MINS

THIS IS OPTIONAL, IF IT ISN'T NEEDED. PLEASE FEEL FREE NOT TO USE IT)

Pre Service Game Stations: As students are being checked in, use this time to get to know each student. Help them get comfortable in the classroom and find a friend or group to play games with. If you have enough volunteers in the room, get involved with the games. Fun builds trust with kids, so don't be afraid to have fun with them! Make sure everyone helps put away preservice games before large groups start.

GAME STATIONS

20 MINS

Live Host: Let's have our leaders come down to the front to get ready for games!

Are you ready for a game? Shout YES! I can't hear you! Let's get ready to play PROTECT THE KINGDOM! *(Note for Live Host: make sure to give commentary during the game, and encourage the audience to cheer throughout the game).*

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PROTECT THE KINGDOM

- **Supplies:** 2 sets of plastic cups, 2 soft foam balls

- **Live Host:** Alright, Victory Kids, I need 2 contestants to join me on stage. This game is called Protect the Kingdom! Every kingdom needs someone ready to protect it, and today, that's your job! Each contestant will have a kingdom built out of plastic cups on opposite sides of the stage. When the timer starts, you'll have 30 seconds to roll or toss your foam ball across the stage toward your opponent's kingdom and try to knock down as many cups as you can. But here's the challenge: while you're trying to knock down their kingdom, they're trying to knock down yours!

  You can use your hands to block the ball and protect your kingdom, but you cannot hold the ball, cover your cups, or rebuild any cups that fall. Keep playing until the timer runs out! When time is up, we'll count how many cups are still standing in each kingdom. The contestant with the most cups still standing wins and receives 1 Bible Buck!

MUSICAL STATUE FREEZE

- **Supplies:** Music

- **Live Host**: Alright, Victory Kids, I need 6 contestants to join me on stage. This game is called Musical Statue Freeze! Today, we're going to see who can turn themselves into the best statue! Here's how it works. When the music starts, all six contestants will dance and move around the stage. But the moment the music stops, you must FREEZE like a statue! No moving, laughing, talking, or changing your pose. Each round, anyone caught moving after the music stops will be eliminated. Then we'll start the music again and keep playing until only one statue is left standing! But don't make your statues boring! When the music stops, give me your funniest or most creative statue pose. The last contestant remaining receives 2 Bible Bucks!

FLOW: WELCOME, FIRST-TIME VISITORS, WORSHIP & OFFERING

25 MINS

Live Host: *(Note: invite a child up to pray for offering and today's service)*. We want to welcome our first-time visitors in a big way! If this is your first time visiting with us, we are so excited that you are here!

INTRO: MEMORY VERSE

5 MINS

Live Host: Victory Kids, hear ye, hear ye! Welcome to our brand-new series, **Heaven's Kingdom: Living for the King!** This month, we're learning what it looks like to live for God, our King. Living for the King means trusting Him, following His ways, and having courage to do what is right, even when it feels hard or scary. Our memory verse reminds us why we can live with courage. We don't have to be afraid because God, our King, is with us wherever we go! *(Invite a child to recite the memory verse before the memory verse video is played. This will be a new memory verse, so use the slide provided.)*

Now, if you're ready to trust God and live for the King, shout, "Be strong and courageous!" ...Cue the memory verse video!

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LESSON RECAP VIDEO

1 MIN

Script for video: Last week was the final lesson for our theme, Under Construction: God at Work! We ended our series about Joshua with a recap of what we learned all month. There were three main points: 1. Choosing What is Right Takes Courage; 2. Choosing Courage When We Feel Afraid; 3. Choosing to Obey God Takes Courage. This month we have a new theme and memory verse. Our theme is Heaven's Kingdom: Living for the King. This month's memory verse is from Joshua 1:9, "Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go." Victory Kids, let's get ready for today's lesson.

LIVE HOST'S INTRO TO LESSON

5-7 MINS

Live Host: Victory Kids, hear ye, hear ye! Welcome to our brand-new series, **Heaven's Kingdom: Living for The King!** This month, we're learning what it looks like to live for God, our King, by trusting Him, following His ways, and choosing to honor Him with our lives. Have you ever had someone try to get you to do something you knew was wrong? Maybe your friends were doing it, everyone around you thought it was okay, or you were worried about what might happen if you said no. Living for the King means choosing God's way even when everyone around us is making a different choice. In today's Bible lesson, we're going to meet three young men named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who had to decide whether they would follow the crowd or remain faithful to God, their King.

So, Victory Kids, get ready to enter Heaven's Kingdom and discover what it means to **LIVE FOR THE KING: Choose God's Way!**

Key Scripture: Today's key scripture is Deuteronomy 6:13, "Respect the Lord your God. You must worship him and make your promises only in his name."

LESSON VIDEO

2-3 MINS

(Found in the media file)

MINISTRY LESSON

10 MINS

Supplies: None

Live Host Hook: Victory Kids! Last month, we learned about courage through the life of Joshua. We learned that God helped Joshua trust His promises, stand for what was right, face new challenges, and obey Him. But this month, we are talking about something BIGGER! We are starting a brand-new series called Heaven's Kingdom: Living for the King! And I need to know something...

HEAVEN'S KINGDOM: LIVING FOR THE KING

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How many of you know that when you follow Jesus, you are part of God's Kingdom? *[Kids respond.]* That means we do not just come to church and learn about God. We get to LIVE for the King! So, we are going to play a quick game. I am going to give you two choices. If you would choose to FOLLOW THE CROWD, march your feet in place. If you would choose to LIVE FOR THE KING, act like you are placing a crown on top of your head.

Ready? Your friends are playing a game, but they tell you to leave someone out because they do not like them. FOLLOW THE CROWD... or LIVE FOR THE KING? *[Kids respond.]*

You see someone drop money, and nobody else saw it happen. FOLLOW THE CROWD... or LIVE FOR THE KING? *[Kids respond.]*

Everyone around you is making a choice that you know is wrong, but they tell you, "Come on! Everybody is doing it!" FOLLOW THE CROWD... or LIVE FOR THE KING? *[Kids respond.]*

Exactly! Living for the King means that we do not just do what everyone else is doing. We choose God's way, even when it is different from everyone around us. And that brings us to three young men in the Bible named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They lived in Babylon, where King Nebuchadnezzar was in charge. But they knew something very important: King Nebuchadnezzar was not their highest King. God was! One day, the king commanded everyone to do something that went against God's commands. Everyone around them was doing it. Everyone was expected to follow the crowd. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had a choice. Would they follow the crowd? Or would they live for the King? Let's find out what happened when these three young men chose to live for the King!

- **Worship God, not Idols**

Have you ever been in a situation where everyone around you was doing something you knew was wrong? Maybe your friends wanted you to break a rule, make fun of someone, or cheat. It can be hard to make a different choice when everyone else is doing the same thing. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew what that kind of pressure felt like. King Nebuchadnezzar made a huge golden statue and commanded everyone to bow down and worship it when they heard the music. Anyone who refused would be thrown into a blazing furnace. The statue was an idol. Do you know what an idol is? An idol is anything people put in God's place or treat as more important than God. When the music played, people throughout the kingdom bowed down, but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not. They knew that God alone deserved their worship. Even though they lived in Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar, they knew they belonged to God.

Some men saw that they refused to bow and reported them to the king. Daniel 3:12 says, "They do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego could have looked around and thought, Everyone else is doing it, so maybe I should too. But they knew that living for the King means choosing God's way, even when everyone around you chooses differently. Victory Kids, sometimes living for God means making a choice that is different from the crowd. We do not live God's way only when it is easy or when everyone agrees with us. We live for the King because God is our King!

- **Worship God by Choosing Him No Matter What**

When King Nebuchadnezzar heard that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow down, he became very angry. He brought them before him and gave them one more chance. When the music played, they could bow down and worship the statue, or they would be thrown into the blazing furnace. The king even asked, "What god will be able to save you from my power?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew the danger was real, but they also knew who they served. Daniel 3:17–18 says, "The God we serve is able to save us... But even if he does not... we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

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Their answer showed that their decision to follow God was not based on what He might do for them. They had already decided that God was their King, and they would remain faithful to Him.

They believed God could rescue them, but they did not know what He would choose to do. They chose to live for the King no matter what. Living for God does not mean we always know what will happen or that everything will turn out the way we want. It means we choose His way, obey His Word, and remain faithful to Him even when life is difficult or the outcome is uncertain. Sometimes we may pray about a problem and not know how it will turn out. We can still choose to follow God because He is our King. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not know what would happen when they faced the furnace, but they knew one thing for sure: they would live for the God, the greatest king, no matter what!

- **Worship God and Know He Is With You**

Nebuchadnezzar was angry that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not worship the statue. He ordered the furnace to be made even hotter. Then the three men were tied up and thrown into the fire. But when the king looked into the furnace, he could not believe what he saw! He asked, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" His men said yes, but the king could see four men walking around in the fire, and they were not hurt. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not alone! The king called for them to come out. When they did, everyone could see that the fire had not burned them. Their clothes and hair were not burned, and they did not even smell like smoke! God had been with them in the fire and rescued them. When Nebuchadnezzar saw what God had done, he praised the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Victory Kids, living for the King does not mean we will never face hard situations. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had already decided that God was their King, so they would worship Him and follow Him no matter what happened. Even when they were thrown into the fire, they did not change their decision. God was with them, and He helped them remain faithful to Him. We may face moments when following God is difficult or when everyone around us is choosing a different way. But we can remember that living for the King means choosing God's way, obeying His Word, and staying faithful to Him no matter what. **That is what it means to LIVE FOR THE KING!**

MINISTRY MOMENT

10 MINS

Raise your hand and tell me something you learned today. I am giving away Bible bucks!

Today, we learned to **LIVE FOR THE KING: Choose God's Way!**

- **Worship God, not Idols**
- **Worship God by Choosing Him No Matter What**
- **Worship God and Know He Is With You**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose to worship God, stand for Him, and live for their King no matter what happened. Victory Kids, we can do the same! We may not always know what will happen when we choose God's way, but we can keep living for the King. We can worship God, stand for Him, and remember that He is always with us wherever we go. That is what it means to LIVE FOR THE KING!

Call to Action

HEAVEN'S KINGDOM: LIVING FOR THE KING

REMEMBER THAT I COMMANDED YOU TO BE STRONG AND BRAVE. SO DON'T BE AFRAID. THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE WITH YOU EVERYWHERE YOU GO. JOSHUA 1:9 (ICB)

What Has First Place?

For your call to action this week:

This week, write down what gets most of your attention, time, and excitement. Ask yourself, "Am I putting anything before God?" Choose one way to put God first this week through prayer, worship, reading His Word, or obeying Him. Don't forget we will share next week and receive Bible Bucks!

WRAP-UP & CLOSING PRAYER

5 MINS

(If your campus begins with small groups, please ask review questions before closing prayer. If your campus ends with small group, move directly to closing prayer (these questions will be asked and answered in small group)

1. What are the names of the three men from today's lesson? **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.**
2. Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow to the gold statue? **Because they knew only God should be worshiped.**
3. What did the king say would happen if they did not bow down? **They would be thrown into the blazing furnace.**
4. Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego know if God would rescue them? **No, but they knew God could rescue them and trusted Him no matter what.**
5. What should we remember when we face a hard situation? **God is with us.**

Before we move to small group, let us take a moment to pray.

Closing Prayer *(Please feel free to encourage the children to lead)*

Dear Jesus, You are our King, and You alone deserve our worship. Help us to trust You and choose Your way even when others make different choices. Give us strength to stay faithful to You and make choices that honor You. Teach us to live for You in what we say, what we do, and how we treat others. We love You and want our lives to please You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Heaven's Kingdom: Living for the King

Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go. Joshua 1:9 (ICB)

SMALL GROUP OPTION ONE - (There are TWO options provided for small group the second one is for the campuses that does small group first)

Intro

Live Host: Good morning, everyone! I hope you enjoyed today's lesson. Can anyone tell me what you learned today? *(wait for students' responses)*

Lesson Recap: Today, we learned about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and what it means to live for the King. When King Nebuchadnezzar commanded everyone to worship the golden statue, they refused to bow because they knew that only God deserved their worship. They had already decided to follow God no matter what happened, and even when they were thrown into the fiery furnace, they remained faithful to Him. Let's see what you remember! What are the three things we learned from Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! Worship God, not idols; worship God by choosing Him no matter what; and worship God and know He is with you. Great job, Victory Kids! That's what it looks like to LIVE FOR THE KING!

Today, we learned about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the book of Daniel. Is Daniel in the Old Testament or the New Testament? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right, the Old Testament! Now grab your Bible and see who can be the first to find **Daniel 3:17–18** for a Bible Buck!

Icebreaker

(this icebreaker has two parts: questions from today's lesson and the call to action from last week)

1. What are the names of the three men from today's lesson? **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.**
2. Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow to the gold statue? **Because they knew only God should be worshiped.**
3. What did the king say would happen if they did not bow down? **They would be thrown into the blazing furnace.**
4. Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego know if God would rescue them? **No, but they knew God could rescue them and trusted Him no matter what.**
5. What should we remember when we face a hard situation? **God is with us.**

Great job answering the questions. Does anybody remember what we were supposed to do last week for our call to action? *(Wait for responses)*

Our Call to action for last week:

Pass the Courage

Tell someone what you learned about Joshua. Share one way God helped Joshua be courageous and one way God is helping you grow in courage too. Then encourage that person to choose courage with you! Remember, whoever shares receives Bible Bucks!

Heaven's Kingdom: Living for the King

Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go. Joshua 1:9 (ICB)

Prayer Requests

Tell students we're starting prayer, remain with eyes closed, and focus attention on God. Ask for any prayer requests they would like to share. If your small group needs a little encouragement, give them categories like **family, school, or friends** to get them thinking about areas they need prayer in. After students share, lead the group in prayer, covering each prayer request, using the name of each student that asks for prayer.

Recap Call to Action

5 Mins

Today, we learned to **LIVE FOR THE KING: Choose God's Way!**

What Has First Place?

For your call to action this week:

This week, write down what gets most of your attention, time, and excitement. Ask yourself, "Am I putting anything before God?" Choose one way to put God first this week through prayer, worship, reading His Word, or obeying Him.

Don't forget we will share next week and receive Bible Bucks!

S.O.A.P

10 Mins

Please use the S.O.A.P sheet.

Activity: (Optional)

This activity can be taken from the game station section if needed.

Closing Prayer

(Optional - you can invite a child to pray)

Dear Jesus, You are our King, and You alone deserve our worship. Help us to trust You and choose Your way even when others make different choices. Give us strength to stay faithful to You and make choices that honor You. Teach us to live for You in what we say, what we do, and how we treat others. We love You and want our lives to please You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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S.O.A.P

S.O.A.P is a simple but helpful way to study the Bible and apply it to our own lives.

S.O.A.P stands for, **Scripture, Observatin, Applicatin and Prayer** and involves four simple steps.

S: Scripture

You physically write out the scripture. You'll be amazed what God will reveal to you just by taking the time to slow down and actually write out what you are reading!

O: Observatin

What do you notice about the verses? What do you think the main message is? What verses, words or ideas jump out to you? Who is the audience? Is there a repetition of words?

A: Applicatin

Ask God how He wants you to apply the verse to your own life. This is when God's Word becomes personal. What is God saying to me today? How can I apply what I just read to my own personal life? What changes do I need to make? Is there an action that I need to take?

P: Prayer

Pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life.

Let's S.O.A.P Together

"Respect the Lord your God. You must worship him and make your promises only in his name."

Deuteronomy 6:13

Name:	Grade:	Date:

S.O.A.P

“Respect the Lord your God. You must worship him and make your promises only in his name.”
Deuteronomy 6:13

SCRIPTURE

What did you read?

OBSERVATION

What is God saying?

What does this look like in my life?

APPLICATION

PRAYER

Dear God...

SCAN ME

Check out this month’s Memory Verse Song!

“Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go.”
Joshua 1:9 (ICB)