

CLUE IN *(review the Bible story)*

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Explain that you will read the following clues about today's Bible story. Some clues/statements are correct and some are incorrect. If they hear one that is correct, they should stand up (for what's right!). If the clue is incorrect, they must give two thumbs down and explain why the clue is incorrect. Remind them to put their "listening ears" on for this activity.

Clues

1. Today's story is about a guy named Douglas.

(Incorrect. Today's Bible story is about Daniel.)

2. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream about a tree that reached to the sky and could be seen all over the world. *(Correct.)*
3. In his dream, someone came along and cut off just the branches of the tree.

(Incorrect. In his dream, the tree was cut down all the way to the stump!)

4. When Daniel came to see the king, he explained the dream.

(Correct. None of the king's wise men could explain the dream, but with God's help, Daniel could!)

5. Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar that the dream was about cutting down more trees in the kingdom to build a bigger palace.

(Incorrect. Daniel explained that King Nebuchadnezzar was the tree and that if he didn't stop sinning against God, he would lose his place as King and have to live like an animal in the wilderness.)

6. Daniel warned the king to stop sinning and to show kindness to people who were mistreated. If he did, then he could avoid God's punishment. *(Correct.)*
7. King Nebuchadnezzar listened to Daniel as he spoke and followed his instructions from God.

(Incorrect. The king still didn't listen. Instead, he heard the voice of God telling him that he was about to lose all his authority and would be forced to live in the wilderness like an animal.)

8. Because he refused to listen to God's warning and follow Him, King Nebuchadnezzar lost all his power, was forced to live in the wilderness away from his palace, even eating grass like cows! *(Correct.)*
9. King Nebuchadnezzar had to live like this in the wilderness for seven hours.

(Incorrect. The Bible says that he was in the wilderness for seven periods of time, which could mean seven seasons or even seven years. Either way, it was much longer than seven hours!)

10. After the period of punishment, the king returned to the palace as a servant.

(Incorrect. He came back as the king with the same power and authority as before. But this time, King Nebuchadnezzar recognized the one true God and chose to follow Him.)

What You Say:

"You did an AWESOME job listening to these clues from the story. Some of them were correct and some of them were crazy! But the key was to really listen before responding. Listening is really important. If King Nebuchadnezzar had chosen to listen to Daniel from the beginning, he could have avoided a lot of pain. **We need to make sure that we listen to the right people too. In order to know what's right and to stand with conviction, we need to find other people around us who also follow and listen to God. "If you want to stand for what's right, listen to someone who listens to God."**

PICTURE THIS! *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: 4 pieces of paper, markers or crayons, scissors, Bibles

What You Do:

Open your Bible to Ephesians 6:10 and read it aloud. Repeat the verse together several times.

At the top of each piece of paper write one of the following words in large block letters: *Lord, Strong, Depend, Power*. Read each word aloud and talk about what they mean.

On each paper under the word have kids “illustrate” what it means. Draw a picture of it. If they need help, give them a few suggestions to help them get started. (Examples: a cross for “Lord;” a barbell for “Strong;” two stick figures “helping” each other for “Depend;” a stick figure flexing his muscles for “Power.”) After they have drawn their illustrations. Place the papers a few feet apart. Have kids walk along as they say the verse, stopping at each of the four words as they come to them in the verse.

What You Say:

This verse promises that we can stand for what is right in any situation by depending on God and HIS mighty power. And as you do, you’ll become stronger and stronger too. One way to know if someone listens to God or not is to find out if they read and study their Bible. **As you listen to the right people, people who follow God and depend on Him too, you’ll be able to stand for what’s right in any situation. “If you want to stand for what’s right, listen to someone who listens to God.”**

MATCH MY WORDS *(application activity)*

What You Do:

Read the instructions below slowly, one at a time. I suggest, the younger the kids, the fewer instructions you should try to give. Ask kids to close their eyes as they listen to the instructions. Instruct them to wait until you have given all instructions to start the actions. (They can open their eyes to actually do the actions.) They might get through a couple of the actions before they can’t remember what the rest were. As time allows, repeat the instructions as kids perform the actions together.

1. Hop in place 7 times.
2. Spin once in a circle.
3. Flap your arms up and down 4 times.
4. Move your hips in a circle 3 times.
5. Rise onto your tiptoes and lower back down 7 times.
6. Jog in place while you count to 20.
7. Nod your head 5 times.
8. Jump up and then touch the floor 5 times.
9. Bend your knees and squat down 8 times.
10. Give a thumbs up.

What You Say:

Sometimes listening to someone is the easy part, but it’s important to actually do what people are saying as well. Has there been times when you hear what you are supposed to do, but you have a hard time doing it? *(Allow for answers; you can suggest some age-appropriate situations, like cleaning up your room when you don’t feel like it, or turning off your video game to go do homework instead.)* We all have trouble doing that sometimes. When it’s hard to figure out the right thing to do, we can ask others. **If you want to stand for what’s right, listen to someone who listens to God.** Even if what we hear is not what we want to do, we can show conviction and stand for what’s right!