Bible Story
Daniel Trusts God in the Lions’ Den
Daniel 6

Power Launcher
Go Beyond with Faith!

Vector Verse
Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!
-Ephesians 3:20 (CEB)

Materials
Space Station
- sturdy cardboard boxes
- plastic people figurines

Exploration Station
- soft clay
- pictures of the solar system
- wax paper
- optional: plastic tools and/or space shapes

Bible Station
- two chairs or table
- blanket

Space Station
Invite Voyagers to build a starship with boxes, including a walkway so passengers can walk onto the ship. Add age-appropriate action figures to represent passengers and astronauts.

Exploration Station
Show Voyagers pictures of the solar system. Talk about the shape of the planets. Point out the planet Mars. Encourage Voyagers to mold the clay into shapes that resemble the planets. Teach them the Power Launcher for this session.

Manipulatives Station
During each session, select one or two of these items as options for Voyagers to use:
- To Mars and Beyond Space Mission Matching Game
- wooden or foam puzzles
- large floor puzzles
- lacing cards
- plastic interlocking blocks

Bible Station
Drape a large blanket over a table or between two chairs to create a den. Have Voyagers sit in an open area of the room. Tell the Voyagers they will discover a Bible story about a man named Daniel and some animals called lions.

SAY: The lions in our story were in a den or pit. When I call your name, pretend you are a lion and go into the lions’ den. Encourage the Voyagers to roar like lions while in the pretend den.

SAY: In our Bible story, you will hear how the king had Daniel put in a den with lions. He made this decision because Daniel would only pray to God and not to the king. Daniel was brave and had faith in God. God did take care of Daniel.

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Gathering Time with EP3-20

Mission Commander: Hello, Voyagers! My name is _____ and I will be your Mission Commander here at To Mars and Beyond VBS! This is my robot friend, EP3-20. (Encourage Voyagers to wave/say, “Hi!” to EP3-20.)

EP3-20: (waves) Hi! I can’t wait to go with you To Mars and Beyond!

Mission Commander: Me too, EP3-20. That’s right; we’re going to Mars, that small red planet way out in space. Raise your hand if this is your first time on Mars. (Allow Voyagers to respond.) Wow, that’s a lot of you! EP3-20, let’s get our biggest spaceship ready to travel.

EP3-20: Roger that, Commander! (turns to go)

Mission Commander: Wait, EP3-20! Before you go, can you please tell our Voyagers what your name means?

EP3-20: Of course! (to Voyagers) I love to talk about my name because it comes from the Bible verse we use in everything we do at To Mars and Beyond. The verse is from the New Testament, Ephesians 3:20. So I’m EP for the book named Ephesians, and 3-20 for the numbers of the verse. Get it?!

Mission Commander: That’s right! We call it our Vector Verse. It says, “Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!” Let’s practice saying our Vector Verse together. (Practice in small phrases at a time, multiple times, if desired.) Well done, everyone! Now let’s get ready to go to Mars and beyond...

EP3-20: ...beyond with faith!

Mission Commander: Good reminder, EP3-20. Every time we get together, we have a new Power Launcher phrase to help launch us to Mars and beyond. This time, our Power Launcher is Go Beyond with Faith! Voyagers, say that with me, please. (See Teacher Tip.)

EP3-20: That was fun; let’s say it again!

Mission Commander: Okay, EP3-20. (with Voyagers and motions.) Go Beyond with Faith! Great job, everyone. Let’s go!

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Materials
EP3-20 the Robot Puppet

Teacher Tip
If desired, teach the motions to go along with the Power Launcher. For sign language motions and directions, see the Free Resources section at cokesburyvbs.com.
Music Time

Preparation
1. Select the number of songs and activities you feel will best meet your needs for the time span.
2. Gather the necessary items to create the maracas or use simple rhythm instruments.
3. Play To Mars and Beyond VBS music as Voyagers enter and exit music time.
4. Wash and dry all the soda bottles before the session.

Session Songs
1. “On Our Way to Mars and Beyond”
2. “Even When the Lions Roar”
3. “Music for My Lord”

Making Maracas
Help the Voyagers make maracas for Music Time activities.
1. Place filling items on different paper plates.
2. Give each Voyager an empty, clean soda bottle (consider labeling these in advance with their names).
3. Demonstrate for Voyagers how to add items into their bottles.
4. Assist them to secure the caps on the bottles.
5. Add colorful duct tape to secure the cap in place.
6. Invite Voyagers to decorate the outsides of their bottles with Stay-Put Stickers.

Mission Time
Mission Time will focus on hands-on ideas. There are several options. Look in the Mission Leader guide and select the ones that best fit the needs of your church.

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Experience the Bible Story

Transition
Invite Voyagers to stop their current activity and prepare for the Bible story by joining in this action rhyme.

Climb aboard, Voyagers. (Pretend to climb.)

We’re going beyond Mars! (Point up and away.)

Our spaceship will be flying (Pretend to fly.)

way up among the stars. (Hold arms up and wiggle fingers.)

As we go, we’ll hear a story (Cup hands around ear.)

of God’s love and power. (Cross hands over heart; make a muscle arm.)

So, let’s start the countdown, (Hold up ten fingers.)

right this very hour. (Squat down.)

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. (Count together.)

Blast off! (Jump up high.)

What Do You See?
Show Voyagers the Session 1 Bible Story Poster before and after the telling of the Bible story.

Voyagers, Voyagers, what do you see? I see______, that’s what I see. (Invite each Voyager to complete the phrase, saying something they notice in the Bible story image.)

Get Ready!
Who has been to the zoo? What animals do you see at the zoo? (Allow Voyagers to respond.)

Let’s pretend to be some of the animals in the zoo. Let’s all be monkeys. (Pretend to be monkeys.) How do monkeys sound? (Encourage Voyagers to make monkey sounds.)

Now let’s be elephants. (Pretend to be elephants.) How do elephants sound? (Encourage Voyagers to make trumpet sounds like elephants.)

Now let’s be lions. (Pretend to be lions.) How do lions sound? (Encourage Voyagers to roar like lions.) Wow! Those lions sound scary! We’ll hear more about lions in our Bible story. Now it’s time for all the animals to be quiet and listen.

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Materials
What Do You See? Bible Story Poster Pak
Tell the Bible Story

Open the Bible to the Book of Daniel and show your Voyagers where to find the Bible story. Place the Bible in your lap or on the table as you tell the story.

Our Bible story is about a man named Daniel. Daniel went beyond with faith! The story is in the Book of Daniel in the Old Testament.

I’ll need your help telling the story. There are very hungry lions in this story. Each time you hear the word lion, roar like a lion. (Practice.)

Daniel loved God. He showed his faith in God by praying to God three times a day. 1, 2, 3. (Hold up fingers as you count, and encourage Voyagers to count with you.) Daniel was one of the king’s helpers. Daniel worked very hard for the king, so the king put Daniel in charge of all the king’s helpers.

Some of the king’s helpers were jealous of Daniel, so they made a plan to get rid of him. They tricked the king into making a new rule that everyone had to pray to the king, not to God. Anyone who did not pray to the king would be thrown into a den with very hungry LIONS.

“I like the king,” said Daniel. “But I must pray to God, not the king.” So Daniel continued to show his faith by praying to God three times a day. (with fingers and Voyagers) 1, 2, 3.

The helpers saw Daniel pray to God. They ran to tell the king. “Daniel has broken your new rule. Now he must be thrown into a den with very hungry LIONS.” The king was very sad. He did not want to hurt Daniel, but even the king had to obey the new rule.

“I pray that your God will take care of you, Daniel,” said the king. Then he put Daniel into a den of very hungry LIONS! The king worried about Daniel all night long. Daniel was frightened, but had faith in God. He prayed to God to keep him safe.

The next morning, the king hurried to the den of very hungry LIONS. “Daniel, are you all right?” shouted the king. “Yes,” answered Daniel. “I’m safe. God closed the mouths of the very hungry LIONS.”

“I’m so glad you’re safe!” said the king. “I will make a new rule. Everyone will pray to your amazing God.” So Daniel continued to show his faith by praying to God three times a day. (with fingers and Voyagers) 1, 2, 3.

Think about it...

Why do you think Daniel had so much faith?
Respond to the Bible Story

Response

Prayer
Thank you, God, for the story of Daniel. Thank you for all of the amazing ways you help us. Amen.

Response

Activity
Name several animals and ask Voyagers to move like that animal and make those animal sounds.

SAY: Which animal did we hear about in our Bible story today? How do you think Daniel felt when he had to go into a den with hungry lions? Do you think he was happy or afraid? (Allow Voyagers to respond.)

Show me what your face looks like when you are happy. (Allow Voyagers to respond.)

Invite the children to sing and do the motions for the song, “Even When the Lions Roar.”

SAY: When we are afraid or when we are happy, we can have faith in God. We can Go Beyond our fear with Faith!

Vector Verse
Show Voyagers the Vector Verse Poster. Open the Bible to Ephesians 3:20. Say the verse. (For sign language motions and directions, see the Free Resources section at cokesburyvbs.com.)

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Materials
Vector Verse
Activity Center Signs and Publicity Pak
Complete Music CD
Bible

⚠️ Teacher Tip
If needed, shorten the verse to use with your preschoolers, or teach it to them a little at a time, adding to it each day!
**Preschool Recreation**

**Space Race**

**Preparation**
1. Make sure the recreation area is safe and ready for play.
2. Divide a pool noodle evenly into two sections.
3. Use masking tape to indicate a start line and a finish line.

**Let’s Play!**

**SAY:** Let’s have a relay race and call it a Space Race!

1. Divide Voyagers into two teams or groups.
2. Voyagers will begin at the starting line. The aim of this activity is for the children to move the ball with the pool noodle to the finish line.
3. Once the children reach the finish line, they run back to the starting line and pass the pool noodle off to the child next in line. Leaders will have another ball ready for the next Voyager in line.
4. Continue playing until all children have had a turn.

**Bible Tie-in**

**ASK:** How did you feel when you tried to move the ball? You had to trust that your arms and the pool noodle would move the ball.

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Daniel trusted God to help him in the lions’ den, and God did!

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**Roar**

**Preparation**

Make sure the recreation area is safe and ready for play. A large space is best for this activity.

**Let’s Play!**

**SAY:** Let’s play a game where we make fun animal noises.

1. Divide the group into pairs.
2. Assign each pair of Voyagers an animal sound to repeat. (Make sure one set of children repeat the sound of a lion.) Leaders need to make sure each animal has a recognizable sound. Ask the Voyagers to repeat their animal sounds.
3. Have Voyagers spread out all over the large space.
4. When the leader says, “Go Beyond with Faith,” Voyagers move to the middle of the room. Then they turn away from one another. When the leader says, “To Mars and Beyond,” Voyagers make their animal sounds. Next, Voyagers are to find their partner who is making the same animal sound. Voyagers stay with their partners until all partners have been found.

**Bible Tie-in**

**ASK:** How did it feel to act out these sounds? Have everyone make a lion sound.

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** In our Bible lesson today, we heard a story about Daniel in the lions’ den. Daniel trusted God to help him in the lions’ den, and God did!
Bible Blast Craft
Lion Mask

**Purpose**
Voyagers will use their imaginations to create a fun lion mask to help them remember the Bible story.

**Preparation**
1. Cover tables with a tablecloth.
2. Pre-cut large white paper plates by cutting out the center circle.
3. Pre-cut lion ears and strips of paper for the lion’s mane.
4. Before the Voyagers arrive, use a glue gun to attach a jumbo craft stick to the back of each plate.
5. Set out supplies.

**Directions**

**Step 1:** With the help of leaders, Voyagers use an unsharpened pencil to curl the red, orange, and yellow paper strips for the lion’s mane.

**Step 2:** Voyagers glue the curled paper strips to the back of the paper plate so that they are sticking out from the edge. Make sure the plate is turned so that the curved side is facing up.

**Step 3:** Voyagers attach the Power Launcher sticker to one of the ear shapes.

**Step 4:** Voyagers glue on the ear shapes.

**Bible Story**
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**Materials**
- To Mars and Beyond Tablecloth
- large white paper plates
- Craft Theme Stickers and Stay-Put Stickers
- construction paper (red, orange, and yellow) cut into lion ears and into 3½-by-1½ strips.
- classroom glue
- unsharpened pencils
- black markers
- scissors
- jumbo craft sticks
- glue gun (For teachers’ use only!)

**Bible Tie-in**
Remind Voyagers of the Bible story. Talk about how Daniel had to have faith in God that he would be safe and that the lions would not hurt him.

- What sound does a lion make? Let’s all make that noise again using our mask.
- How do you think Daniel felt in that den of lions?
- Now, let’s use our mask and repeat our Power Launcher. Go Beyond with Faith! Repeat.
Cokesbury Craft
Robot Bank

**Purpose**
Voyagers will use their imaginations to create fun robot shapes as they remember their Vector Verse.

**Ages**
Appropriate for all ages. Younger Voyagers may need extra help.

**Preparation**
1. Cover tables with a tablecloth.
2. Pre-cut pieces of foil to 9" x 7" for Voyagers.
3. Set out supplies.

**Directions:**

**Vector Verse**
Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!
- Ephesians 3:20 (CEB)

**Materials**
- To Mars and Beyond Tablecloth
- Robot Bank Mission Craft
- Pre-cut pieces of foil (9" x 7")
- An assortment of items to decorate banks, such as colorful tape, stickers, glitter glue, etc.
- Washable markers, colored pencils, and/or washable crayons
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glue

**Step 1:** Voyagers decorate the bank as desired, using a variety of craft supplies.

**Step 2:** Fold the sides together.

**Step 3:** Glue or tape the sides in place.
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**Bible Tie-in**
While at VBS, we are discovering ways we can explore where God’s power can take us. We will find out ways we can help others in need. As we decorate this bank, we can think of ways we can help others. Our banks will equip us to be mindful of serving others.

**Step 4:** Glue or tape the wheels on the bank.

**Step 5:** Voyagers can collect mission monies.
I. Observation

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: At our To Mars and Beyond VBS, we are learning how to go beyond with God. Here at the Science Station, we will always use the Scientific Method to take seemingly ordinary things and go beyond with them to make and learn extraordinary things!

ASK:
1. Have you heard of the Scientific Method before? (Briefly explain the steps; see page 5 for details if needed.)
2. (Show Voyagers the materials.) Have you seen items like these before? What do you already know about them?

II. Question & Hypothesis

1. Do you think we can make a starship out of balloons? If we could, how far do you think it would fly? (Optional: Tally votes by raised hands and record the numbers.) Let’s test it!

III. Experiment

Step 1: Tie string to the top of one chair (at the height of about three feet, if possible). Leave the other end loose.

Step 2: Inflate a balloon and seal the air inside by folding the neck over and clamping it shut with a binder clip.

Step 3: Keeping the balloon sealed, tape a straw to your inflated balloon. Make sure the straw and the nozzle of the balloon are parallel to each other.
**Step 4:** Thread the loose end of your string through the straw so the neck of the balloon is facing towards you. Pull your string taut and tie it to the same position on your second chair.

**Step 5:** Count down to zero, and let the starship fly! What happens? Mark the point on the string at which the balloon stopped.

**Step 6:** Invite Voyagers to perform the experiment themselves (divide your group into teams, if needed). Repeat steps as time allows or until each Voyager who wants a turn gets one.

**Go Beyond:**
1. Use a measuring tape to record your balloon starship’s circumference. Keep conducting trials using balloons inflated to progressively bigger circumferences. What happens?
2. **STEM option:** Provide materials such as paper, index cards, paper cone cups, etc. and invite Voyagers to see what modifications they can make to their rockets to make them go even further!

**IV. Analyze & Apply**

**How Does it Work?**

Newton’s Third Law says, “For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.” This means that, when you push on something, it pushes back just as hard. All known spacecrafts—including our balloon starships!—work by pushing gas through their nozzles forcefully, which pushes the spacecraft in the other direction. While all of our balloons pushed air out at roughly the same speed, the bigger balloons had more “fuel,” allowing them to exert force that was stronger and/or lasted longer.

**Bible Tie-In!**

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Using science to go beyond in our experience of creation helps us to learn more about God. Even the most ordinary things—balloons, air, and the sky above—become extraordinary when we look at them through the lenses of the scientific method and our faith in the Creator!
Preschool Science
Sort Animals

Observation
In our Bible story, we discovered Daniel's trust in God even in the lions' den. As Voyagers do this activity, talk about whether lions live in water or on land.

Preparation
1. Cut out a circle each from the blue and green construction paper. Place the circles on the table so they overlap.
2. Cut out the overlapping section from brown construction paper. Glue the overlapping section on top of the two circles.
3. Place the plastic animals or animal pictures around the circles.

How It Works
God created animals to live in different places. Each animal has something that helps it live where it belongs.

- What can a fish do that lets it live in the water? (breathe under water)
- Can a fish live on land? (No.)
- What about a lion; can a lion live under water? (No.)

God created lions to live on the land and fish to live in the water.

Bible Tie-In!
In today's Bible story there are lots of hungry lions. God is the Creator of all creatures, and God kept Daniel safe from the lions.

Procedure
1. Invite Voyagers to sort the animals. Place all animals that live in the sea on the blue circle. Place all animals that live on the land on the green circle.
2. Ask: Are there any animals that live both in the sea and on land?
3. Help Voyagers identify animals that can live on land and in water. Let the Voyagers move those animals to the brown overlap section.

Materials
- construction paper (blue, green, and brown)
- plastic animals or pictures of animals that live in the sea, live on the land, and can live in both.

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Reflection Time

Journaling
Student Books & Fun Pages

Assist Voyagers as needed in completing the Session 1 activities on pages 2–4 of their Student Books and/or copies of pages 2–7 from the Fun Pages.

Prayer
Thank you, God, for helping us in such amazing ways. We want to show our faith in you each and every day. Amen.

To Mars and Beyond!
Let’s pretend we are the planet Mars! Invite Voyagers to make a circle with their hands overhead for Mars. SAY: To Mars and Beyond!

Now let’s pretend we are stars! Invite Voyagers to make five-pointed stars with their bodies. Have them spread their feet apart, raise their arms to shoulder level, and smile. Count off the points: one is their head, two is their left arm, three is their right arm, four is their left foot, and five is their right foot. See the five points. SAY: As you stand in your star shape, name something special you did or discovered today!

Tell Voyagers how glad you are that they came To Mars and Beyond, and invite them to come back again for another adventure!

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Materials
Preschool/Kindergarten Student books (1 per Voyager)
Younger Elementary Reproducible Fun Pages book (1 per class)

Teacher Tip
Alternate Activity: Invite Voyagers to prepare for dismissal by repeating the action rhyme from page 13.