

MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY LIVING FOR JESUS



EVENT PLAN

Introducing the theme

Just like a tiny pebble can make a huge impact so can you!

What's needed:
A small pebble in the leader's shoe



You can find this clip in the event playlist



We impact our city by helping people know, love and follow Jesus!

(Leader 1) WELCOME, everyone! Who's ready for an AMAZING time together?

We are gonna play some games, have some fun, and our theme this year is ..

*(Leader 2) (Enter, walking funny, wincing with every step.)
Ow... ouch... ooooh...*

(Leader 1) Uh no .. our theme is not ow ouch ooooh .. are you okay? Why do you sound like that? And are you walking like a penguin on purpose?

(Leader 2) No! Something is in my shoe, and it must be HUGE because it's driving me CRAZY! (Sits down, takes off shoe and dramatically pulls out a tiny pebble.)

Huh. That's it? This tiny thing was causing ALL that trouble?

*(Leader 1) You mean to say that tiny thing **impacted** how you sounded?
(Yup) And that tiny thing **impacted** how you walked? (It sure did)*

(Leader 2) It's sooo small yet it made a HUGE impact! Guess I'll throw it away.

(Leader 1) WAIT! Don't throw it! We can use it to introduce today's theme..

(Leader 2) We can?

(Leader 1) Yes, watch this clip and you will see what I mean.

Play the clip "Little Pebble, BIG Impact"

https://youtu.be/gtNrjUyKp_4?si=WJ6DILFN3EZoA7qw

Do you see how even the tiniest of stones were part of a big picture? Well it is the same with us.. YOU might feel small, but with help from Jesus you can **impact** the city! And that is our theme today drum roll please (*Get the children to tap on their knees like a drum*) Our theme is **IMPACT THE CITY - WITH GOD WE CAN**. And the best way we can impact our city is to help them **know, love and follow Jesus**. And that's what we are going to learn about today.

(Leader 2) That's AWESOME! ... uh but can I put my shoe back on now?

(Leader 1) Yes please! (Pretend like their feet stink and intro the next activity.)

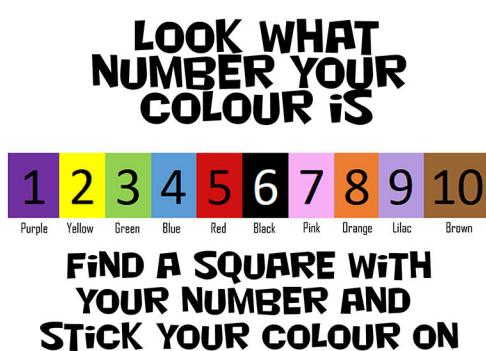
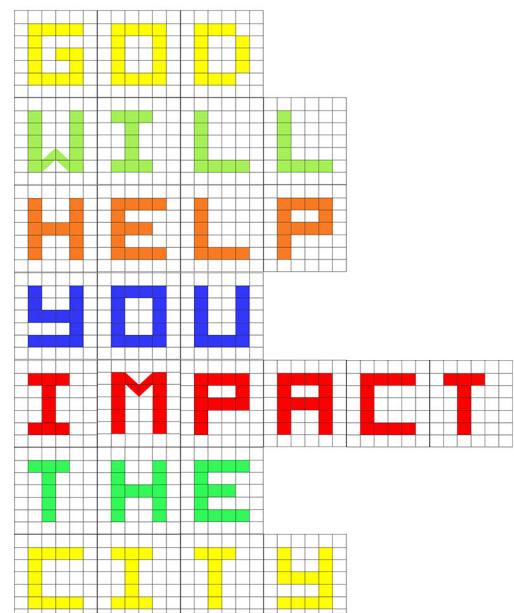
Ice Breaker: With God we can make an impact

What's needed:
Letter grids
Small pieces of
gummed paper
Wet sponges to
wet the paper



This is an
example of the
letter "O"

4	4	4	4	4	4
4	2	2	2	2	4
4	2	4	4	2	4
4	2	4	4	2	4
4	2	4	4	2	4
4	2	2	2	2	4
4	4	4	4	4	4



Did you know that God is impacting our city right now? Every day people are learning about Jesus, choosing to follow and worship Him. God's Kingdom is growing and He wants you to help impact your city too!

This little piece of coloured paper may be small but it can show us three important things about impacting our city.

- 1) **God is already impacting His city.** (Hold up one of the grids with some things coloured in)
- 2) God's plan is for us to impact the city for Him **together**. Turn to the person next to you and say "I will do my bit". Now point at them and say "And you do your bit." (Get the children to stick their squares until the grids are full)
- 3) (Refer to the now completed message) **"God will help you impact the city."**

Tip: Fill in
some of the
coloured
squares on the
grids already

Daniel Skit: With God we can make an impact

Bring the story of Daniel to life through this fun, interactive skit!

The narrator reads while actors use props to act out each scene and the kids join in by shouting responses shown on cue boards such as:

"Oh no!"; "No ways - I will follow God!"; "God is great and God is King!"; "With God we can make an impact!"; "Dan, Dan, he's our man. If can't do it no one can."



Use the link to see it in action:

https://youtu.be/H_a3uWF06Pw?si=BzNFhqOKddc894Aa

Scene 1: Daniel is captured

This is Daniel and his friends.

(Daniel and friends enter, wave, and show their name tags.)

They were Israelites who all made the decision, "I will follow God."

(Daniel and friends nod in agreement, point up and say in time with the children)

"I will follow God!"

But then they were captured!

(Capturer jumps in front with a sword and pretends to tie them up.)

"Oh no!"

They were taken to Babylon, which was a very sinful place.

(Daniel and friends hold their hands behind their backs and walk across the stage as the capturer urges them on.)

"Oh no!"

The Babylonians tried to make Daniel and his friends just like them.

They changed their names to the names of their fake gods.

(Capturer turns over their name tags. Daniel and friends look unhappy.)

"Oh no!"

They made them learn their language.

(Daniel and friends try to pronounce words, getting all confused.)

And they served them certain food that God said they could not eat. It looked delicious, but Daniel refused and said **"No ways - I will follow God!"**

(Servant brings in a tray of food but Daniel and friends push it away.)

"Dan, Dan, he's our man. If can't do it no one can."

And God was faithful. Daniel was healthier, stronger, wiser, and ten times more capable than everyone else even from just eating vegetables and water!

(Servant offers a carrot and a bottle of water. Daniel and friends pretend to eat and drink, then flex their muscles and rub their chins like they're thinking.)

"God is great and God is King!"

King Nebuchadnezzar was amazed and put Daniel in charge.

(King enters and puts a special robe on Daniel, then points as if sending him to lead.)

"Wow! With God, we can make an impact!"

Daniel Skit continued...

Scene 2: The Fiery Furnace

Then King Nebuchadnezzar made a law: "When the music plays, everyone must bow down to my big gold statue!"

(King rolls out a scroll and points to a statue.)

"Oh no!"

But Daniel's friends said, **"No ways - I will follow God!"**

(Friends shake their heads firmly and say with the children "No ways - I will follow God")

Do you think they should bow down to the statue?

(Friends gesture to children, asking what they should do.)

"No ways!"

If they don't, they'll be thrown into a fiery furnace. Shouldn't they just quickly bow?

"No ways!"

The friends stood tall for everyone to see and refused to bow down.

(Friends stand firm.)

"No ways - I will follow God!"

So they were thrown into the fiery furnace.

(Capturer pushes them in.)

"Oh no!"

But God was faithful! God sent an angel to protect them from the burning hot flames - and they were safe.

(Angel appears in the fire with them. Friends look amazed.)

"God is great and God is King!"

King Nebuchadnezzar was amazed as he counted - there were four people in the furnace! He announced that everyone must serve God because **"God is great and God is King!"**

(King wags his finger at the people and points upwards.)

"Wow! With God... We can make an impact!"



Daniel Skit continued...

Scene 3: The Lion's Den

For many years, Daniel loved God and prayed to Him three times every day.
(*Daniel enters and kneels to pray.*)

"Dan Dan, he's our man! He has faith that God can!"

When Daniel was 80 years old, the new King Darius made a law: "You cannot pray to God for 30 days!"

(*King holds up a scroll.*)

"Oh no!"

Do you think Daniel should stop praying?

"No ways!"

But it's only for 30 days - are you sure?

"No ways!"

Daniel refused to stop praying.

(*Daniel kneels again and prays.*)

"No ways - I will follow God!"



He even prayed in front of his window just like before.

(*Daniel opens his arms wide and looks up as if praying by the window.*)

"Dan Dan, he's our man! He has faith that God can!"

So Daniel was thrown into the lions' den.

(*Capturer leads Daniel to the den. Angel appears and shuts the lions' mouths.*)

"Oh no!"

But God was faithful! God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths, and Daniel was safe and sound.

"God is great and God is King!"

King Darius was amazed and announced that everyone must serve God because **"God is great and God is King!"**

(*King wags his finger commanding the people.*)

"Wow! With God, we can make an impact!"

There's so much more I could tell you about Daniel and how he had faith in God.

(Narrator closes a big Bible.)

If someone tries to make you do something you know God doesn't like, what will you say? **"No ways - I will follow God!"**

And if you're facing something too hard for you to do on your own, what will you remind yourself of? **"God is great and God is King!"**

And I hope you will always remember... **"Wow! With God, we can make an impact!"**

Object Lesson: Impact with love

God wants us to help others know, love and follow Jesus. One of the ways we can do this is through loving people.

Daniel was in Babylon, this very sinful city, because King Nebuchadnezzar had captured him and taken him there. When God said in a dream that King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom would be taken away from him and he would end up living like a wild animal, we would have expected Daniel to celebrate but let's read what he says.

Daniel 4:19 "Upon hearing this, Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) was overcome for a time, frightened by the meaning of the dream. Then the king said to him, 'Belteshazzar, don't be alarmed by the dream and what it means. '"Belteshazzar replied, 'I wish the events foreshadowed in this dream would happen to your enemies, my lord, and not to you!'

Daniel showed the king love, even though he did not deserve it. The king did end up living like a wild animal and when God eventually gave him his kingdom back this is what he said:

Daniel 4:34 "After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven. My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one who lives forever.

Compare a handful of confetti to an explosive popper to show the **BIG impact** we can make when we are obedient to God and **love** others.

Daniel just needed to show love. God would help him impact the people and the city. To impact our city so everyone knows and follows Jesus we need love.

Without it this is what our impact looks like. (throw a small bit of confetti) But when we do it God's way and we do it with love for God and love for others .. we help so many more to know love and follow Him too. (Pop popper)



See this in action by watching the clip "Impact with love - Quick Truth"
<https://youtu.be/c-clWvwkmJE?si=pXJpNQDyn6y6jJHJ>

Game: Impact with love

What's needed:

Parachute
Bag of small balls
Giant beach ball

Children all hold around the edge of a parachute to play the games and learn how we can impact our city through loving God, telling others and loving and forgiving others like Jesus did.

1. Mushroom (Love God)

We need to love God first above everything else. We do this by obeying, praising Him and spending time with. It is good for us to show others we love God. *Everyone calls out "I Love God" and lifts the parachute high into the air and steps underneath to create a "mushroom" shape.*

2. Tuck under (Love Jesus by speaking to Him)

Jesus calls us friend and He wants to be close to us. We can do this by spending time speaking to Him. *Everyone calls out "Speak to Jesus" and lifts the parachute high into the air, steps underneath, tucking it behind them as they sit down.*

3. Player swap (Sharing Jesus' Love)

Jesus loves us and He wants us to tell other people that He loves them too. *On the count of three, players swap places by running under the parachute to the other side e.g. Girls only, boys only etc. As they get to the other side they call out "Jesus loves you"*

(John 13:34) A large ball is placed on the parachute, and players work together to roll it in one direction around the outside edge, saying "Jesus loves you and you and you so i will also love you and you and you"

Even though we do not deserve it, Jesus died for our sins just so we can be forgiven. And Jesus tells us to forgive others too. (Ephesians 4:32)

Now, players roll the ball in the opposite direction, symbolizing how we should forgive others just as Jesus did. Children say with you "Jesus forgave you and you and you and He wants me to forgive you and you and you..."

4. Large Beach ball (Love and forgive like Jesus)

Jesus loves us. Jesus tells us to love others just as He has loved us. (John 13:34) *A large ball is placed on the parachute, and players work together to roll it in one direction around the outside edge, saying "Jesus loves you and you and you so i will also love you and you and you"*

Even though we do not deserve it, Jesus died for our sins just so we can be forgiven. And Jesus tells us to forgive others too. (Ephesians 4:32)

Now, players roll the ball in the opposite direction, symbolizing how we should forgive others just as Jesus did. Children say with you "Jesus forgave you and you and you and He wants me to forgive you and you and you..."

5. Popcorn (Share your love with everyone)

We can love a little. Add a few small balls to the parachute, and players gently shake it to keep the balls bouncing.

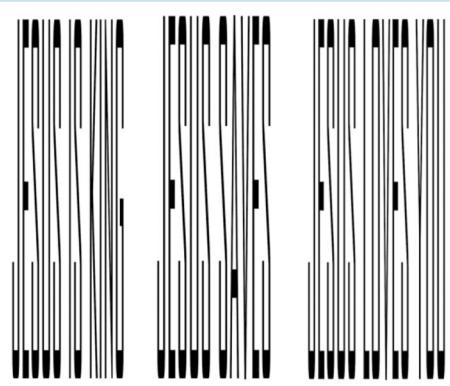
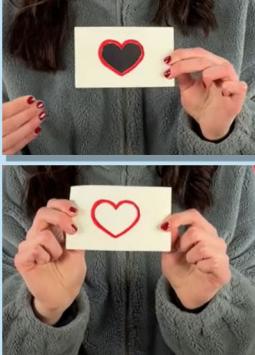
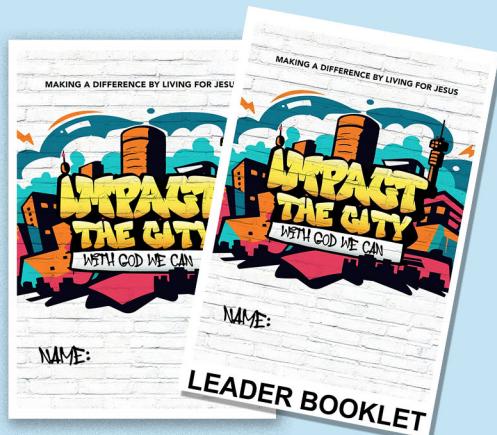
Or we can love a lot. Which do you think will make a bigger impact?

Lots of balls are added, and players shake the parachute harder to send them flying.

Devotional Booklet: Impact the city

Download the booklets to work through with the children as they use their Bibles to learn from Daniel's life on how with God we can impact our city to help them know, love and follow God.

Main Idea: Impact the City: With God's help we can



What's needed:

Booklets
Bible
Stationery
Small pebbles
Large stone labelled God
Bucket of water
Heart flaps
Perspective Messages

See the clips in the Event plan playlist or use the link.
https://youtu.be/_UusIMV3g5E?si=T2I7jEQs5Z-HFRQc

Use the links that explain how to use the devotional booklet as well as do the object lessons within.

Craft: God's Way is to...



Children alternate threading the card and cut up coloured straws onto the wool to remind how to live God's way.

Why not set up an obstacle course for children to collect the cards.

What's needed:
Cards
Wool
Cut up straws



Object Lesson: Impact the city God's way

For each volunteer set up a thin-necked bottle of water, a basin and a straw (without telling them to use it)

The best way we can impact our city is to help others know, love and follow Jesus. To help us understand how we can do this, let's have a race.

God's way is the best way!

Get the volunteers to race to empty their bottle of water the fastest. Did you see how everyone shook their bottles hard? Some even hit it to try and make the water come out quicker. Sometimes we think we have to force people to believe in God. Each one of them had a straw but no one used it.

Now, two leaders will race again. One will now demonstrate how much faster it is using the straw!

Tip: Slightly tip the bottle and blow through the straw to force the water out. Make sure the straw doesn't bend, or it won't work.

If we are going to impact our city by helping others know, love and follow Jesus we can't do it in our own strength. We can't do it our way. We need to ask and rely on God! His way is best. In the Bible we see that Daniel didn't fight, shout or force people to believe and follow God. Instead, he did it God's way.

He spent time praying to God, getting to know Him and asking Him for help. He loved God by praising and obeying Him. And even when it was hard he kept on telling others what God was saying and kept loving them. And because he did it God's way, people started to believe in and follow God.to do it God's way!



Game: Daniel Puzzle Relays

Each finished puzzle has a colored frame for easy identification. To help teams keep track of their pieces, place matching colored stickers on the back of each one.



Do you trust God enough to pray before freaking out?

Make a set of puzzles for each team. The children will help build Daniel's story piece by piece. Each puzzle they complete adds another part of his story, which they'll collect during relays.



Daniel's life made a powerful impact on the city where he lived, even though he was a captive there. Whenever challenges came, Daniel chose to do things God's way. He prayed, praised, and obeyed God no matter what. If we want to impact our city, we need to follow his example.

Picture 1: The King had a dream

When Daniel was captured in Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing dream. He ordered the wise men to tell him what the dream was and what it meant and if they could not he would have them killed. This meant Daniel and his friends were in danger too!

Relay Game:

1. Each team (two-by-two) will stand back to back with the beachball in between them and race to the bucket to collect a puzzle piece and return to their team.
2. They pass the beachball to the next pair to continue.
3. Children build the first two puzzles of the story

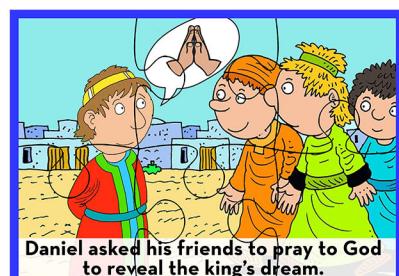
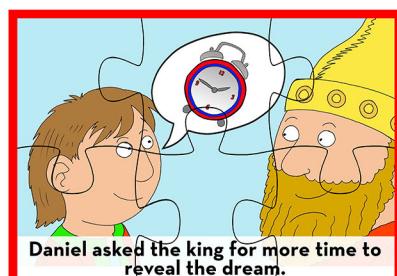
Picture 2: Daniel asked for more time

Daniel asked the king for more time to reveal what the dream was and what it meant. (Daniel 2:16)

Picture 3: They prayed

Daniel asked his friends to pray to God to reveal the king's dream. (Daniel 2:17-18)

Everyone else said "No way we can't do that" but Daniel said "I just need more time." This was because Daniel wasn't going to do it his way. He was going to impact the city God's way. Daniel trusted God and called his friends and prayed. Let's see if God answered.



Game: Daniel Puzzle Relays continued...

1. Pairs take turns where one kneels on the skateboard and the other pushes them to get to the end of the lane to get a piece of the puzzles. Then they swap over and bring the puzzle piece back.
2. Play continues until everyone has had a turn and all the pieces are collected.
3. Children build the puzzles and read the complete story.



Picture 4: God was faithful

God answered Daniel's prayers and revealed the king's dream. (Daniel 2:19)



Picture 5: Daniel Praised God

Daniel praised God. (Daniel 2:19)

Picture 6: Daniel told the king

Daniel revealed the dream. The king praised God and put Daniel in charge. (Daniel 2:47-48)



God faithfully answered their prayers. Did you see how Daniel did not run and tell the king immediately when God revealed the dream to him. First he praised God and only then went to the king - even though his life was on the line. We may get distracted by the excitement of God answering our prayers but we should always pause to thank and praise Him when He does.

God had helped Daniel impact the city and He will help you too. Pray and ask God to show you His way. Praise Him before anything else. And obey His ways. And with God you will impact your city.

Relays should be easy and quick. Here are some other simple ideas:

Zig zag through beacons while carrying balancing a ball on a cone or beacon.

Balance a pingpong ball on a spoon.

Skipping through a hula hoop

Dribble a balloon with a fly swatter

Tip: Laminating the puzzles before cutting them makes them easier to handle and reuse.

Message: The right perspective

Use the link to see this message in action.

<https://youtu.be/zmCq-JYvJdg?si=fNe9N82N6Nn9Hf0w>



**Who had the right perspective?
Daniel or King Nebuchadnezzar?**



Using some board and pvc pipe cut out pieces that when placed in a certain angel form a crown.

When you first look at this, it just looks like a mess - random pieces with no meaning. But watch what happens when I turn it to the correct angle. *(Turn the board so the pieces align to form a crown)*

Watch again on the screen closely (*Not everyone will be sitting at the correct angle and so it is best to show video clip*) Now you can see the crown! The pieces were always there, but we needed the right perspective to see them correctly.



Daniel had the right perspective. He knew that God was the true King and that His kingdom lasts forever. And Daniel's actions showed this. Everything he did was for God and God's Kingdom.

He refused to eat the king's food, trusting in God. He prayed even when it was illegal, because obeying God was more important to him. He told Nebuchadnezzar the truth about his dreams, showing that God rules over all kingdoms, even if that could have gotten him into trouble.

Nebuchadnezzar on the other hand had the wrong perspective. He thought he was the most powerful king, and that his kingdom would last forever but God showed him through dreams and miracles that that was not true.

King Nebuchadnezzar finally admitted, "God's kingdom is everlasting" (Daniel 4:34).

The truth is Jesus is King and His Kingdom is the only one that lasts forever. It is important for us to recognize Him as such. We need to make sure we allow this truth to change everything about us.

Having the right perspective of Jesus as the eternal King should change the choices you make, how you worship Him and how you live every day.

There is no better thing you can do than see Jesus for who He truly is, to love Him and follow His way and to live for Him and His eternal Kingdom. What is your perspective?



Jesus is the eternal King, and His Kingdom lasts forever. When we truly see Him for who He is, it changes how we live, worship, and make choices each day.

