

# FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 24

For Kids

## Dare to Stand for Jesus

### Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

**Say:** Last week we learned that we can share the Bible with our friends. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell about the ideas you have for the Bible study you created and with whom you want to study.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

### Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** how to use their influence to lead others to Jesus
- **Feel** challenged to help their friends learn to trust in Jesus
- **Respond** by committing to be a positive influence on their friends



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day  
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



## **The Bridge** (10 Minutes)

### **You need**

- Dominos 1 set per 3-4 people
- Long or wide table

Participants will have 5 minutes to work together to stand the dominos on end in a continuous row, or with branches off the main row. The object of this exercise is to knock all the dominoes down by tipping the first domino. When all the dominos are set, choose one honored person to knock over the first domino. If the table is not large enough for everyone to work around, divide into smaller groups at separate tables.

### **Debrief**

**Ask:** How many dominos did the very first domino hit? (One.) If each domino hit only one other domino, how did they all fall down? (Each one hit the one next to it.) How are you like a domino? (You can influence one other person) How can Christians have a domino effect on the world? (Each one can reach one who can reach one more who can reach one more and on and on until everyone knows Jesus.)

**Say:** As Christians, we can have a domino effect in our world. We can have a positive influence that spreads from person to person to person.

**Prayer:** Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



## Into the Word (25 Minutes)

**Write** this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:  
**Jesus needs us to be a good influence on others.**

### Bible Discovery

**Say:** Thousands of years ago, Daniel and his three friends were kidnapped from Jerusalem and taken to Babylon. Depending on the Bible translation you use, they are called “youths,” or “young men,” or even “children.” They probably were not much older than some of you. These boys were prisoners in a foreign land, facing all kinds of temptations and challenges. Let's see what happened to them.

Distribute the questions to the family groups and allow about 4-5 minutes for them to read the passage and answer the questions. Instruct them to identify what we can learn from Daniel's example about influencing others to become Jesus' disciples. As each group reports, write the main point as noted below on the marker board.

**Write on the board:** How to influence your friends to become Jesus' disciples

**1 Group # 1 — Read Daniel 1:8-15, 18, 20.** What choice did Daniel and his friends make in spite of the risks involved? How did their choice influence the chief official? What made their choice difficult? What can we learn from their example?

**Write on the board:** Stand for what is right

**2 Group # 2 — Read Daniel 2:1-6, 13-18.** What crisis did Daniel and his friends face? What did Daniel ask his friends to do? Why was it important for them all to pray? What can we learn from Daniel's example?

**Write on the board:** Lead your friends to pray

### You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- Copies of questions 1-5

### Ahead

Copy questions 1-5 on separate slips of paper for distribution.

- 3 Group # 3 — Read Daniel 2:25-28, 46, 47.** Who did Daniel give credit to for revealing King Nebuchadnezzar's dream? What influence did Daniel's connection to God have on King Nebuchadnezzar? What can we learn from Daniel's example?

**Write on the board:** Focus your friends on Jesus

- 4 Group # 4 — Read Daniel 3:4-5, 12-18, 28.** What test did Daniel's friends face? What made their choice difficult? What influence did their choice have on King Nebuchadnezzar and everybody watching them? What can we learn from their example?

**Write on the board:** Be true even if you are the only one

- 5 Group # 5 — Read Daniel 6:16-23, 25-27.** What test did Daniel face? What made his choice difficult? How did Daniel's choice influence King Darius and others in the kingdom? What can we learn from Daniel's example?

**Write on the board:** Let others see God's power in your life

## **Review/Quiz**

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What did we learn from Daniel's example about being a positive influence on others?"
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



## My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

**Leader Share** a story from your childhood or youth of a person who had a positive influence on you. How did his/her influence impact you.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

### You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

**Say:** Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



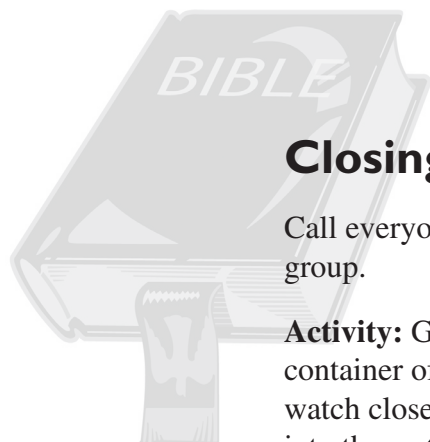
## My World (5-8 Minutes)

**Leaders:** While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

### You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



## **Closing** (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

**Activity:** Gather everyone around the container of water and instruct them to watch closely as you drop a single pebble into the water.

### **You need**

- A large shallow container to hold water
- Pebbles in a variety of sizes
- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

**Ask:** How far did the ripples from the pebble reach? (To the edges of the container.) What would have happened if I had dropped it into a larger body of water like a pond or lake? (The ripples would have reached farther possibly all the way across to the other edge.)

**Say:** The influence you have over those around you is like the influence this pebble had on this pool of water. That tiny little “kerplunk” is just the beginning; the ripples keep on going and going, long after the pebble has reached the bottom. Your influence may reach farther than you could ever imagine.

Select a second pebble larger or smaller than the first one and drop it into the water.

**Say:** Any size pebble that is dropped in the water will create ripples. Size doesn't matter. If you are young, old or in between, you can be a positive influence for Jesus.

**Say:** Think of someone in your home or school or neighborhood or church with whom you have influence. If you want your influence over that person to be good, take a pebble and drop it in the water. As you watch the ripples spread out, ask Jesus to help you be a good influence over that person.

Instruct them to go one at a time so they can watch the ripples from their own pebble.

**Say the *Footprint* together: Jesus needs us to be a good influence on others.**

**Say:** This is our last *Footprints for Kids* small group meeting. I have been blessed by our time together. I want to encourage you to continue to grow in Jesus – to draw closer to Him each day – to trust Him with everything in your life – to share Him with others.

**Celebrate the completion** of the *Footprints for Kids* small group. See the preface at the beginning of this notebook for suggestions.

Close with a prayer asking Jesus to help everyone be a good influence on others and thanking Him for the discipleship adventure He has called each of you to take with Him.

## My Choice

1. **Say** the *Footprint* together: **Jesus needs us to be a good influence on others.**
2. Parents/mentors **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

### Dare to stand for Jesus

1. Stand for what is right ..... Daniel 1:8-15, 18, 20
2. Lead your friends to pray ..... Daniel 2:14-18
3. Focus your friends on Jesus ..... Daniel 2:25-28, 47
4. Be true even if you are the only one ..... Daniel 3:4-5, 12-18, 28
5. Let others see God’s power in your life ..... Daniel 6:16-23, 25-27

3. Parents/mentors **Share** a story from your childhood or youth when someone your own age had a positive influence over you.
4. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Do you choose to be a good influence on others? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** together asking God to help you each have a positive influence on others.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day  
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

## My World

1. **Discuss:** Do you think it was easy or difficult for Daniel and his friends to be a good influence over others in Babylon? What impact for God did they have on others? What helped them have a good influence on others?
2. **Discuss:** What things make it difficult for you to be a good influence in our family, in our neighborhood or at school? What can you learn from Daniel's example when it seems really hard to influence others for good?
3. Parents/mentors: **Share** the name of someone in your circle of friends, family, neighbors or co-workers that you would like to influence for good right now. What specific thing can you do to have a positive influence on this person?
4. **Ask:** Who can you influence for good right now?

**People I can influence  
for good:**

**Specific things I can do to be a good  
influence on him/her:**

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

**Grace Point** — **Say:** Grow closer to Jesus each day. **Know** Him and the Bible truths He has given us. **Show** Him to others so they too can become His disciples.

## Dare to Stand for Jesus

### Mentoring Moments for Lesson 24

*Mentoring Moments* are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

---

#### Choice One

**Scripture:** Exodus 32:1-21

**Activity:** Play a game of pick-up sticks with your family. If you do not have pick-up sticks, you can use plastic straws or toothpicks.

**For Discussion:** How does each pick-up stick, straw or toothpick influence the others? In today's passage of Scripture find two cases of someone influencing someone else to do something. Who was weak? Who was strong? How would this story have turned out differently if the weak person had been strong? If the strong person had been weak?

**Prayer Point:** Ask God to give you the courage and the strength to be a good influence on those around you.

#### Choice Two

**Scripture:** John 1:35-44

**Activity:** With your family, stack dominos on end to form a line that branches into several more. Knock the first one over and watch what happens.

**For Discussion:** How is today's passage of Scripture like the dominos? If you were to give the dominos human names, what name would you give the first one based on this passage of Scripture? The second? The third?

**Prayer Point:** Thank Jesus for the influence of godly people in your life. Ask Him to make you like a domino sharing the good news about Him with others.

#### Choice Three

**Scripture:** John 4:4-10, 28-30, 39-42

**Activity:** Find a quiet pond or lake and skip stones with your family. What happens when the stone touches the water?

**For Discussion:** How was this woman like a skipping stone hitting the water?

**Prayer Point:** Ask Jesus to open your eyes to the people who need your godly influence. Ask Him to give you the compassion and the courage to lead others to Him.

## **Choice Four**

**Scripture:** 2 Kings 5:1-19

**Activity:** Hook together a dozen or so paper clips to make a paper clip chain. Hold the chain by one end. Now hold the chain in the middle. Now hold the chain by the other end. Lay the chain on a table and move it by moving just one paper clip. What happens to the other paper clips?

**For discussion:** When paper clips are hooked together, how many have to move to make the others move? How are the paper clips like the characters in Naaman's story? Who in this story would you name as one of the paper clips at the end? In the middle? At the other end? Does it matter?

**Prayer Point:** Ask God to make your influence as powerful as the little girl who served Naaman's wife. Pray that your influence will always be positive, even when you find yourself in unpleasant circumstances, just as she was.

## **Choice Five**

**Scripture:** Esther 4:12-14

**Activity:** Draw a dot in the center of a piece of paper. Write your name under the dot. Now draw a circle around that dot. Give that circle a name that corresponds to a place where you have influence, such as home, school, a sports team, your group of friends, etc. Continue to draw and name as many circles around your dot as you can think of.

**For discussion:** Esther seemed a bit reluctant to use her influence at court until Mordecai reminded her that God had placed her in her position for just that purpose. Where has God placed you? How are you using your influence? Do you use it reluctantly or enthusiastically? Why?

**Prayer Point:** Ask God to open your eyes to the places where He has placed you and to make you aware of the influence you have with others. Ask Him to help you use your positive influence enthusiastically.