



DAILY DEVOTIONAL READINGS AND ACTIVITIES

These devotionals and activities are designed for you to do as a family each night. They focus on what your child learned this past week in Kids Connect. Also challenge them to say the Big Idea and Power Verse every day. You can visit our Facebook page, KidsConnectChildrenMinistry where we will be posting new content regularly.

Resting In The Shadow Service Overview:

Main Focus: If you trust in God, you don't have to worry!

Whatchagaddaknow: I Won't Worry, I Will Trust In God

Power Verse: Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty – Psalm 91:1

This Weeks Message Points: If I Trust God, I Don't Have To Worry; Worry never Trusts and Trust Never Worries; I Must Live Under God's Protection

How Can We Pray? Heavenly Father help us to put our trust fully in you as we seek to live under your protection. In Jesus Name Amen.

Lesson Info: There are so many things in life that are uncertain that it is easy for us to become focused on the things that are going wrong all around us. If we are not careful, worry and anxiety can begin to take over our hearts and minds.

God does not desire for us to spend our time worrying. He has promised that we can find peace if we stay close to Him, trust in Him, and allow Him to take care of our needs.

This week, your children learned through the story of Paul and Silas in jail that they don't have to worry. They can actually praise God in the midst of difficult circumstances. He is able to protect them and provide for them- no matter the circumstances.

MONDAY

Whatchagaddaknow: I Won't Worry, I Will Trust In God

Power Verse: Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty – Psalm 91:1

Read: Acts 16:16-34

ASK:

- Who were the two preachers in this Bible Story?

~Allow time for the kids to answer~

- What happened to Paul and Silas after they preached?

~Allow time for the kids to answer~

- Rather than worry, what did Paul and Silas do?

~Allow time for the kids to answer~

- Did the prisoners leave after the earthquake?

~Allow time for the kids to answer~

- Who came to Paul and Silas' cell to be saved?

~Allow time for the kids to answer~

SAY: There are so many things in life that are uncertain, it is easy for us to become focused on the things that are going wrong all around us. If we are not careful, worry and anxiety can begin to take over our hearts and minds.

God does not desire for us to spend our time worrying. He has promised that we can find peace if we stay close to Him, trust in Him, and allow Him to take care of our needs.

We can learn through the story of Paul and Silas in jail that we don't have to worry. We can actually praise God in the midst of difficult circumstances. He is able to protect us and provide for us - no matter the circumstances.

PRAY: Pray with your kids that may be feeling worried and anxious. Pray that they will renew their trust in God to protect them and provide for them. Pray that God will fill them with peace and rest in the midst of difficulty!

TUESDAY

Whatchagaddaknow: I Won't Worry, I Will Trust In God

Power Verse: Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty – Psalm 91:1

Supply List: Flashlight

Before Family Devotion Begins: Before family devotions begin, familiarize yourself with the story so you can facilitate and guide discussion. Have one child hold the flashlight and the other make shadow puppets. To review the story, turn off the lights and have the child turn on the flashlight and point it towards a wall. The other child will hold their hands in front of the flashlight to make shadow puppet images. (you can switch halfway through the story) Read the provided lesson excerpt aloud, allowing the shadow puppets to “act out” the story. Continue this way until the story is complete.

SAY: Have you ever spent time thinking about shadows? Probably not! Today, we are going to spend some time studying shadows and learning what the Bible has to say about these shady spaces. To begin, let's take another look at the story of Paul and Silas in jail. I need someone to hold the flashlight and another person to make shadow puppets and then we will switch halfway through.

~Choose flashlight holder and shadow puppet maker~

SAY: To review this story, we need to turn out the lights and find some shadows! That's where you are going to help. One of you will hold the flashlight and shine them at the wall. One of you will use your hands to make shadow puppet shapes in front of the light. The shadows will help tell the story as I read it aloud. Have fun and be creative! Let's get started.

~Read the provided lesson excerpt aloud, pausing to allow the kids to make their shadow puppets. Continue until the story is complete~

SAY: The Apostle Paul and his ministry partner, Silas, were with a large crowd of people, preaching. They had done this many times, but this time, they were arrested and thrown into prison. They had done nothing wrong, but they were thrown in jail anyway. The jailer put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. They were deep in the dungeon. It was dark and cold. It was a scary, uncomfortable place to be. Their hands and feet were bound, and they were still in a lot of pain from being beaten. It would've been a great time to start to worry. Who would blame them? It would've been easy for them to say that God didn't care about them and give up...but that's not what they did! Instead of worrying, in the middle of the night, they decided to pray and sing songs of praise and worship to God.

~Switch If The Kids Would Like~

It was so unexpected! The other prisoners began listening to their praise and were encouraged. Suddenly, there was a violent earthquake! It was so big that the ground began to shake, all of the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose! WOW! Talk about a miracle! When this happened, the jailer woke up and started freaking out! He saw that the prison doors were open, and he just knew that everyone must have escaped and that he was about to be in a LOT of trouble. He was so freaked out that he drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But before he could, Paul shouted out, "Don't do it! We are all still here!" The jailer was so relieved that he picked up a torch for light, ran into Paul and Silas' cell, and fell to his knees, asking them, "Sir, what must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas preached about God's love right there to the jailer and the other prisoners. What an amazing situation! They were in prison for preaching about Jesus, and now the jailer was asking them how to be saved and to preach to him about Jesus!

~Turn on Lights and Collect Flashlight~

I have never seen such interesting shadow puppets tell a Bible story! Thank you for helping. Let's discuss the events and see if we can figure out what this story teaches us.

ASK: Paul and Silas were put in prison for sharing their faith. Was that fair?

~Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their thoughts with the family~

ASK: Why do you think Paul and Silas chose to worship instead of worrying?

~Allow time for the kids to answer, discuss their thoughts with the family~

ASK: What might have happened if Paul and Silas worried instead of worshiping?

~Allow time for the kids to answer, discuss their answers with the family~

PRAY TOGETHER

WEDNESDAY

Whatchagaddaknow: I Won't Worry, I Will Trust In God

Power Verse: Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty – Psalm 91:1

Tonight, study Whatchagaddaknow and Power Verse

Re-READ: Acts 16:16-34

PRAY:

Note: See you tonight for Family Night at 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY FAMILY GAME/ACTIVITY

Whatchagaddaknow: I Won't Worry, I Will Trust In God

Power Verse: Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty – Psalm 91:1

Supplies: Power Verse Print Piece; (provided at Kids Connect this past Sunday or at the end of this devotional)

Before Family Devotion Begins: Gather or print and cut the Power Verse Print Piece. Before the game begins, mix up each set of words. Once family devotion begins this is a relay to see how fast your kids can put the Power Verse in the correct order. Have each family member line up single – file and place the Power Verse pieces in a pile on the floor in front of the first person in line. When you say, “Go”, the first person in line will begin passing the words, one at a time, over their head. The next person in line will pass the words under their legs. Family members will continue passing the words in the over/under fashion until the word reaches the back of the line. The last person in line will place the words in a pile on the floor. Once all of the words are transferred to the end of the line, they should race to place the Power Verse words in the correct order. This will be a fun lesson concept reinforcing activity.

SAY: So tonight, I want you to think about being under a shadow. In fact, our Power Verse is a great place to look for shadow clues. Everyone line up single file. I am placing a pile of words in front of the first family member. When I say, “Go,” the first person in line will begin passing the words, one at a time, over their head. The next person in line will pass the word under their legs. You will continue passing in the over/under fashion until the word reaches the back of the line. The last person in line will place the word in a pile on the floor. Once all of the words are transferred to the end of the line, you should race to place the Power Verse words in the correct order.

~Allow time to play the game~

SAY: This week, we have been talking about WORRY! It's something that comes way too easy for us. We worry about school. We worry about whether people will like us, accept us, or be our friend. We worry about getting sick. We worry about getting lost when we go to the store. We worry about all kinds of things.

The big question is...why?

ASK: Why do you worry?

~Allow time for the kids to answer~

ASK: Why do you find it so easy to be filled with worry about things that are happening all around you?

~Allow time for the kids to answer~

SAY: The answer might be simpler than you think...The answer is - the reason you worry is because you don't really trust God! Now, you might be saying, "Wait a minute!" Don't tell me I don't trust God. I do! I trust Him!

Do you? Because the truth is... **If I Trust God, I Don't Have To Worry!**

Trusting in God means I believe He has the power to protect me and provide for me. I trust that He loves me enough to use that power to protect me and provide for me. **If I Trust God, I Don't Have To Worry!**

Too many people fill their lives with anxiety and worry about all of the trouble they face in life. Someone in their family gets sick, and they start to worry. Someone decides they aren't going to be their friend, and they start to worry.

If you trust God, you don't have to worry. Not only that, but if you trust God, you should NEVER worry. Because...**Worry Never Trusts & Trust Never Worries.**

It's true! Worry never trusts! If you worry about everything, that reveals a lack of trust in God. In the same way, trust never worries. If you trust in God to protect you and provide for you, you won't worry about the stuff going on around you. Trust in God keeps us from becoming overwhelmed with the problems of life. Worry never trusts, and trust never worries! It's as simple as that!

Perhaps you are wondering, "How? How can someone truly never worry about stuff? There are SO MANY problems in life!" While it is true that life is filled with difficult situations, the reason we can choose not to worry is found in our Power Verse. "Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

If I want to trust instead of worry...if I want to be filled with peace and rest instead of being filled with anxiety and stress...**I Must Live Under God's Protection.**

"Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty." It's kind of like when you go outside on a hot summer day. And you get a really bad sunburn. It hurts, doesn't it?! Once you have had a really bad sunburn, you can hardly be out in the sun without worrying that you might get burned again. But now, I want you to imagine something. Imagine you are sitting under a HUGE tree that provides all kinds of shade. You look around, and there's the hot sun everywhere - EXCEPT in the shadow of the tree. As long as you are hanging out in the shadow of the tree, you are protected.

It's the same with God. As long as you stay close to God and "rest in the shadow of the Almighty," you don't have to worry about getting burned by the problems of the world. When you live under God's protection, you can rest instead of worry! What a wonderful way to live!

PRAY TOGETHER: Pray for your kids and family members who are feeling worried and anxious. Pray that they will renew their trust in God to protect them and provide for them. Pray that God will fill them with peace and rest in the midst of difficulty!

FRIDAY: FAMILY SHARING

Whatchagaddaknow: I Won't Worry, I Will Trust In God

Power Verse: Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty – Psalm 91:1

Supplies: Bible, Paper, Pencils, Crayons or Markers

Before Family Devotion Begins: Family Sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their life. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

SAY: Life is unpredictable and full of situations that cause worry.

ASK: What are some situations that might cause us to worry?

~Allow time for the kids to write their answer on the paper; discuss their answers with the family~

SAY: Now think about carrying all of that on your own, all of the time, with no help.

~Allow time for the kids to reflect~

ASK: How does the thought of carrying all of that stress on your own make you feel?

~Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the family~

SAY: The thought of being completely on our own in this life is awful. No matter who you are – no matter how hard you try – you can't escape stress. Most people's natural reaction to stress is WORRY.

ASK: Is worry helpful or harmful?

~Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the family~

SAY: The weight of worry is heavy. It fogs up your mind, confuses your emotions, and shuts down forward motion.

ASK: If worry doesn't help, what does?

~Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the family~

SAY: This is where the shadows that we did on Tuesday finally come into play. Let's see what God's Word has to say about them! I need someone to read Psalm 91:1 aloud.

~Choose someone to read Psalm 91:1~

ASK: What does this verse mean to you?

~Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the family~

SAY: Have you ever found shade in the shadow of a tree on a hot summer day? The shadow provides a cool break from the heat of the day. When you step under the shadow, you are protected from the sun. It's a safe haven, a place where you can rest. This is what God offers His children. He is the shadow that provides a break from the heavy burdens of life. When we step into His care, we are protected. God is a safe haven, a place where we can rest and lay down our worry. When we lay down our worry and trust God, we find freedom, peace, and strength.

ASK: What are some ways we can practice resting in the shadow of the Most High and laying down our worry?

~Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the family~

SAY: Worry doesn't help, but trusting God always works! You can rest close to God, in His protective shadow, and have peace – no matter what.

PRAY TOGETHER: Close your eyes and think about a situation that has you worried. Now, picture yourself resting in the shadow of the Most High and laying that worry at His feet. Give it to Him, and ask Him to help you trust and rest in His strength. (PRAY)

SATURDAY

Whatchagaddaknow: I Won't Worry, I Will Trust In God

Power Verse: Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty – Psalm 91:1

Supplies: Resting In The Shadow Print Piece (provided in Kids Connect this past Sunday or at the end of this devotional), Pencils, Markers, Pens

SAY: Let's say Whatchagaddaknow together. One, two, three: I Won't Worry, I Will Trust In God

Let's say the Power Verse together. One, two, three: Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty – Psalm 91:1

SAY: Paul and Silas were sharing the good news of Jesus with others and ended up being arrested. They were put in prison, shackled by heavy chains, all because of their faith. This was an awful time for the two believers, and it would have been completely understandable for them to be filled with worry. However, we know that instead of worry, they chose worship. Paul and Silas were able to make that choice because they were at rest in the shadow of God. They found peace and strength as they laid their worry down and let God work on their behalf. It's an amazing story filled with hope for every child of God. We don't have to carry our worry! God is near! When we choose to draw close and give Him our worry, we find rest, peace, and strength. God will take our worry and work on our behalf. How awesome is that!

~Allow the kids time to complete Resting in the Shadow Print Piece~

PRAY TOGETHER!

SAY: Now let's Answer the following review questions from your Kids Connect Service on Sunday, April 21st.

1. What is this week's Watchagaddaknow?

Answer: I Won't Worry; I Will Trust in God!

2. Who were the two preachers in our Bible Story?

Answer: Paul And Silas

3. What happened to Paul and Silas after they preached?

Answer: They Were Put In Jail

4. Rather than worry, what did Paul and Silas do?

Answer: Praised God

5. Did the prisoners leave after the earthquake?

Answer: No

6. Who came to Paul and Silas' cell to be saved?

Answer: The Jailer

7. According to your Kids Connect lesson on Sunday, "If I _____ In God, I Don't Have To Worry."

Answer: Trust

8. According to your Kids Connect lesson on Sunday, "Worry Never Trusts & Trust Never _____."

Answer: Worries

9. According to your Kids Connect lesson on Sunday, "I Must Live Under God's _____."

Answer: Protection

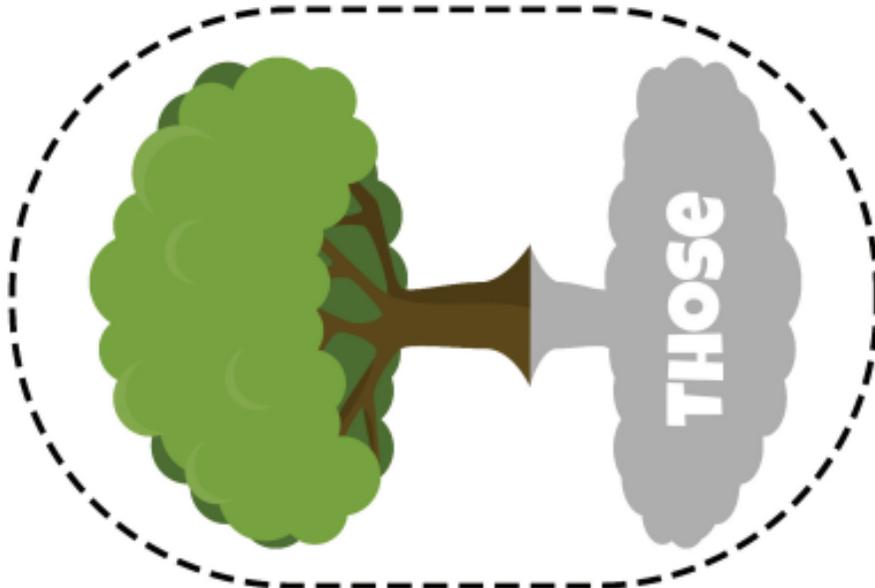
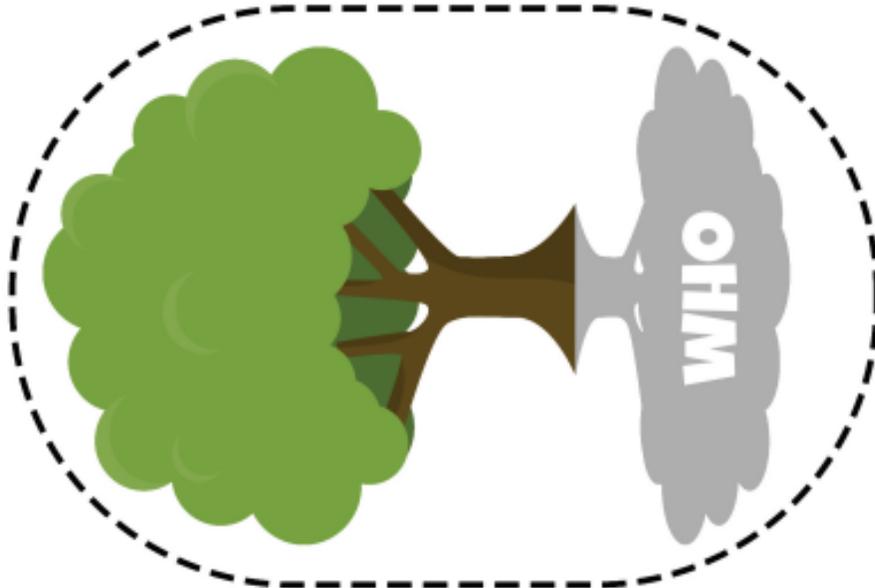
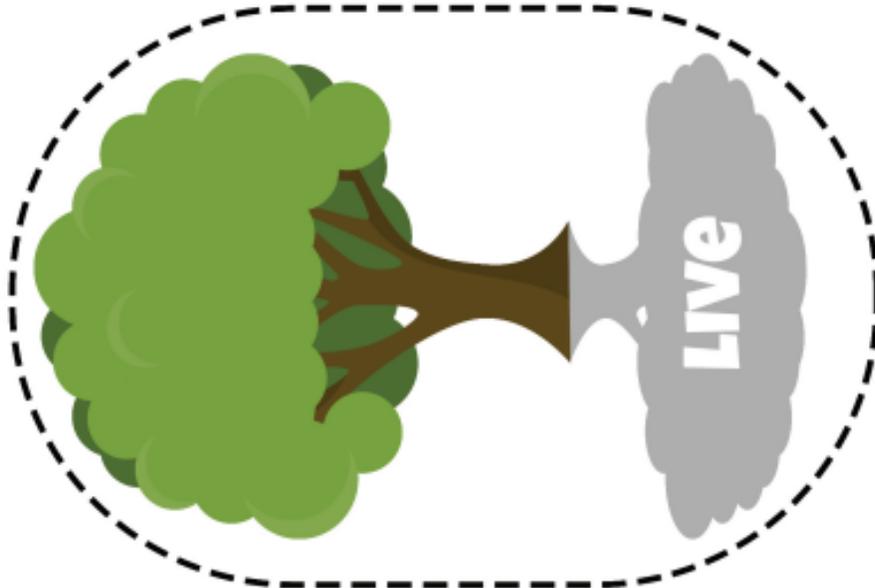
10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Psalm 91:1

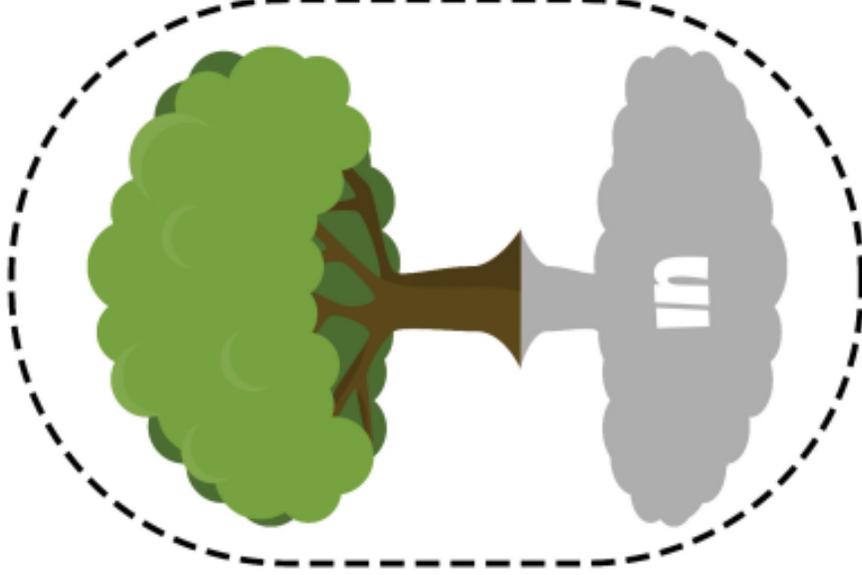
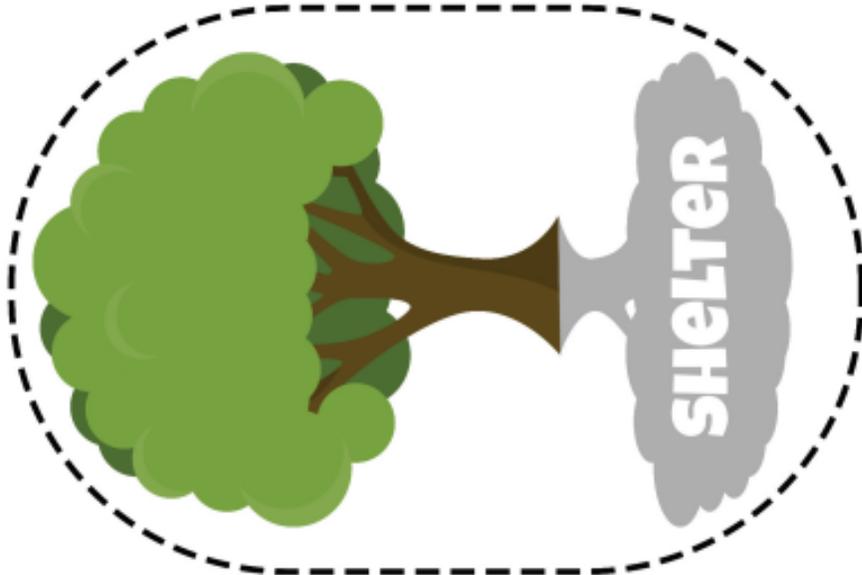
Let's say the Power Verse together. One, Two, Three... Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty – Psalm 91:1

Note: See you tomorrow at Kids Connect and don't forget you are earning points for prizes so when you arrive make sure you have your Bible or a Device with a Bible on it for 2,000 points (if you need one tell Pastor Rob or Pastor Michelle), attend Sunday School (9:00 a.m.) for 1,000 points, attend Kids Connect (10:00 a.m.) for 1,000 points, know your Watt's Up and Power Verse for 4,000 points and if you bring a visitor, you will get 10,000 points.

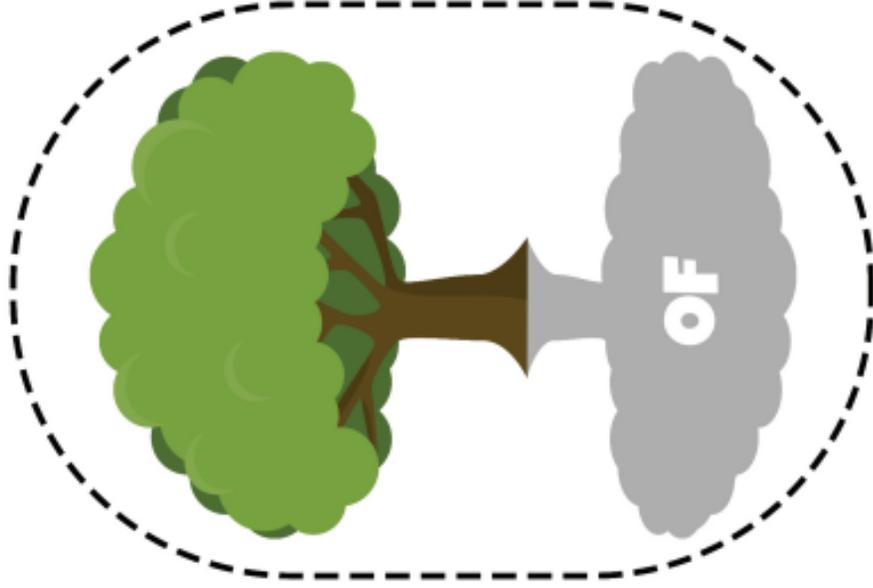
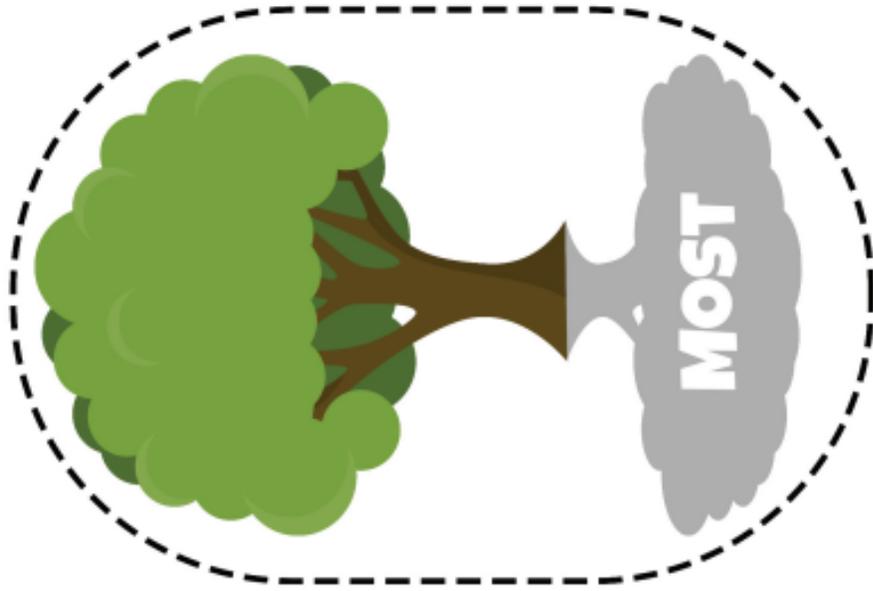
Verse Print Piece: Thursday



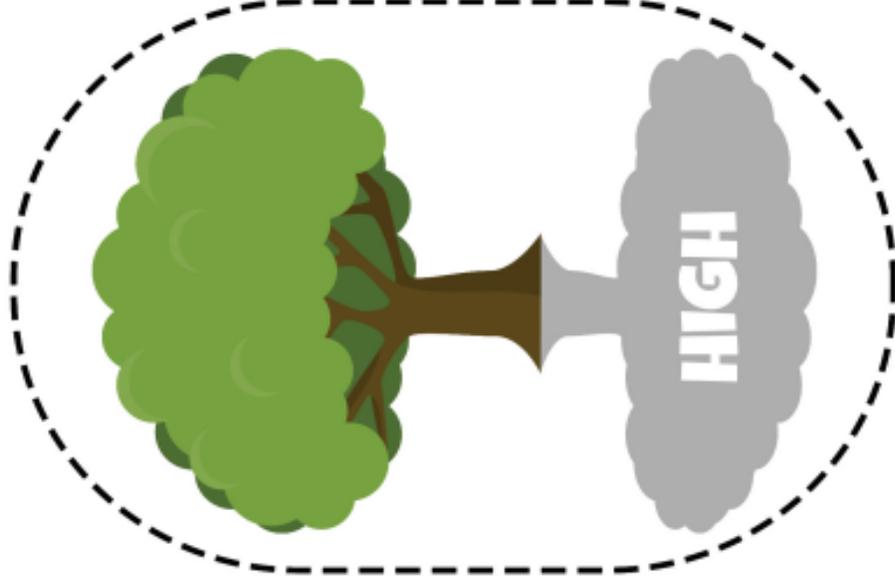
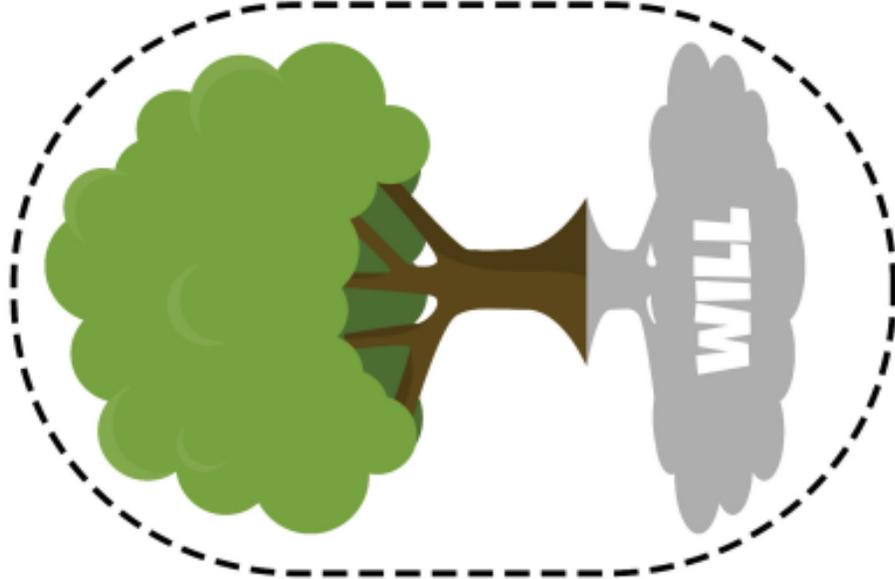
Power Verse Print Piece: Thursday



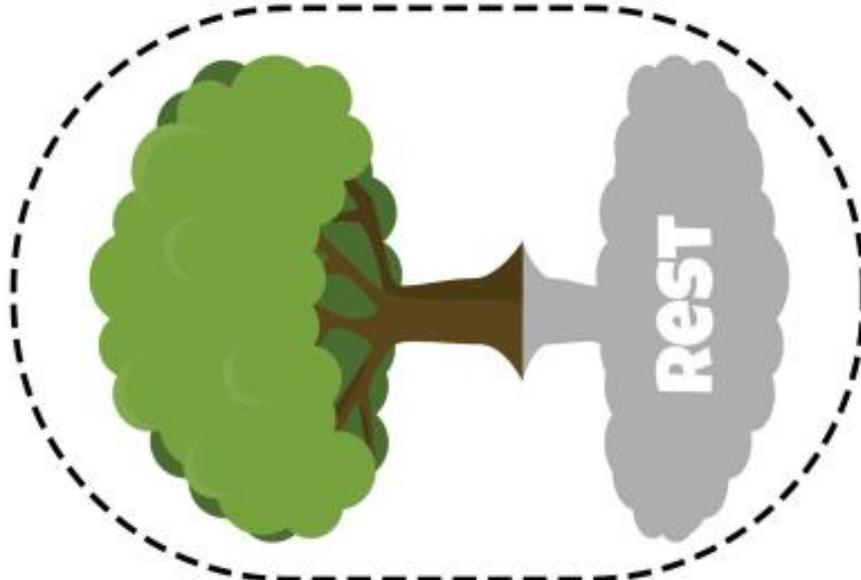
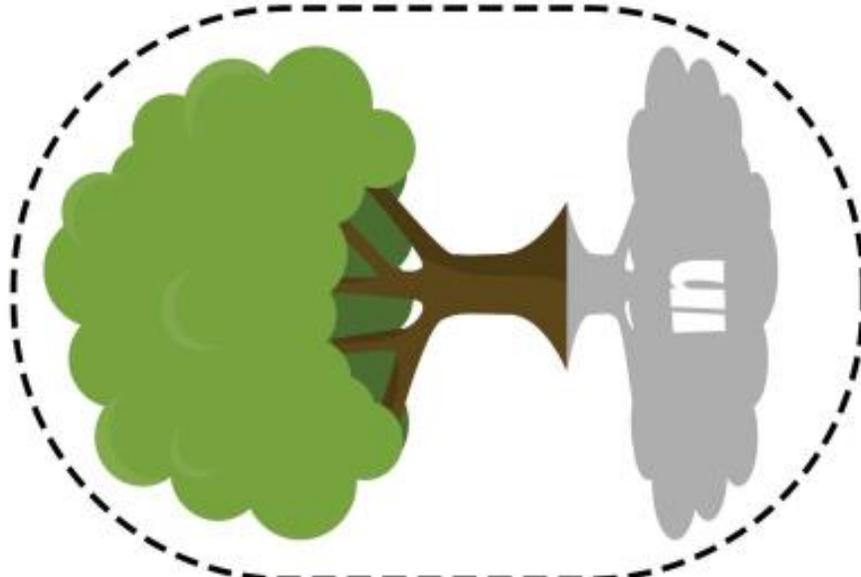
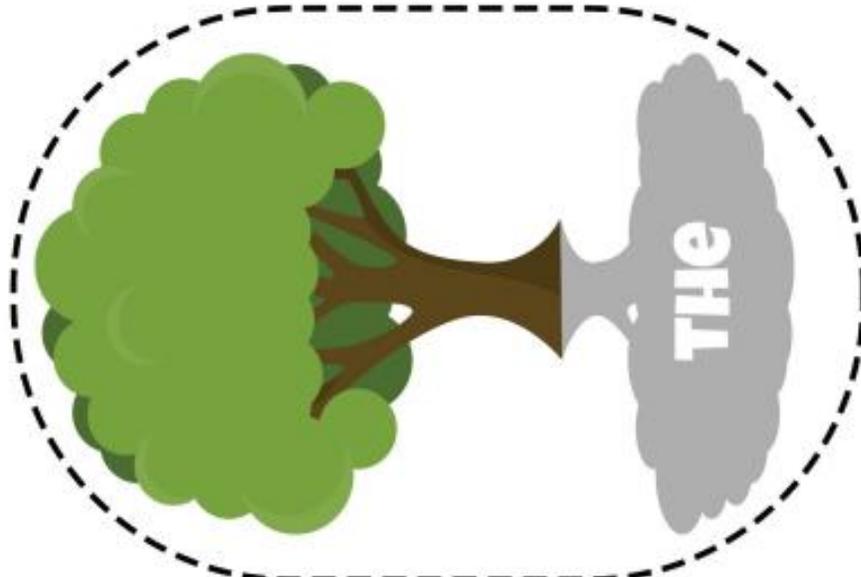
Power Verse Print Piece: Thursday



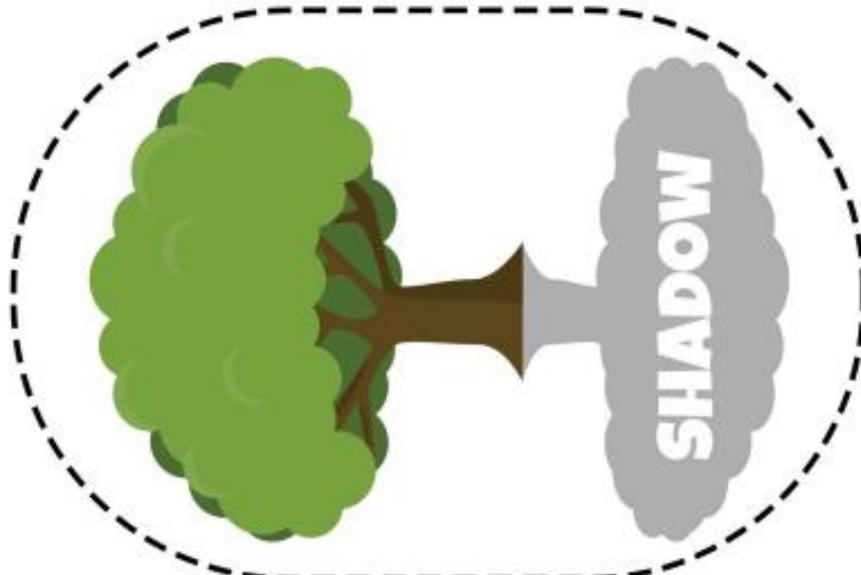
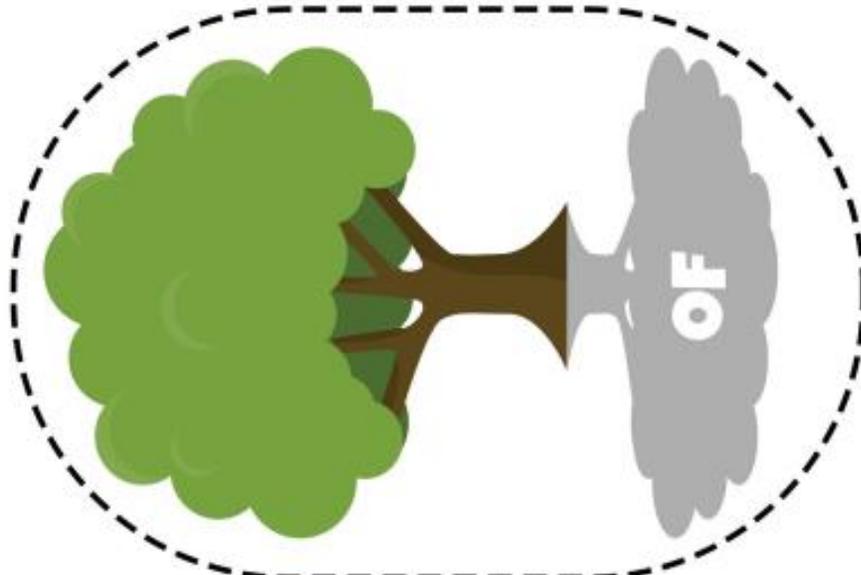
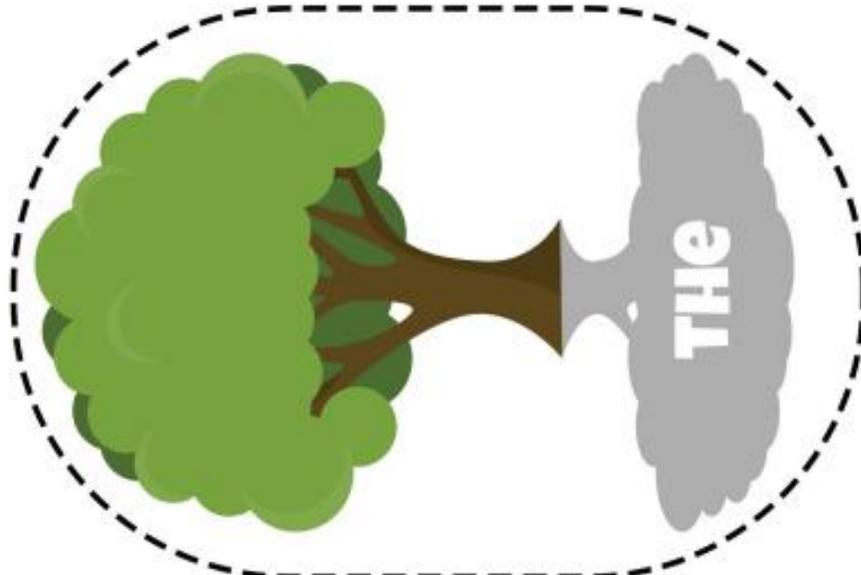
Power Verse Print Piece: Thursday



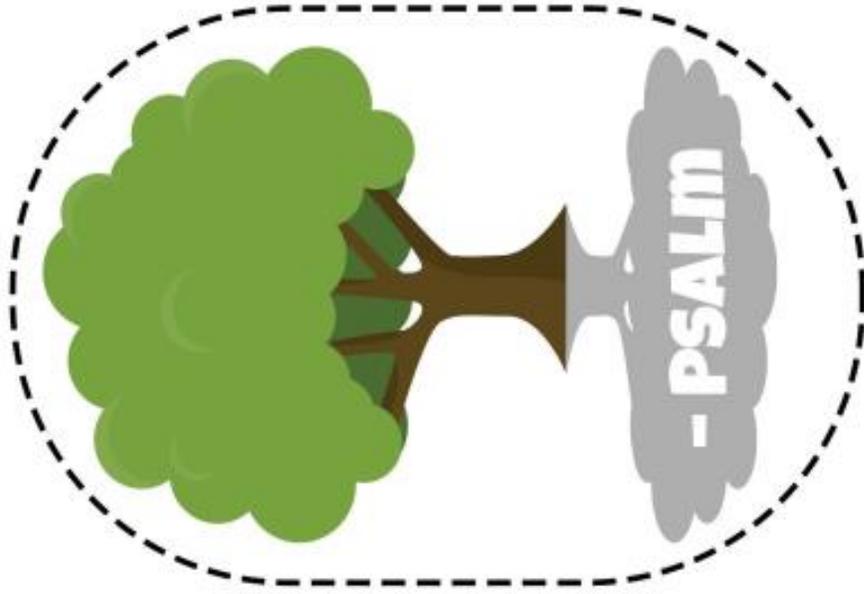
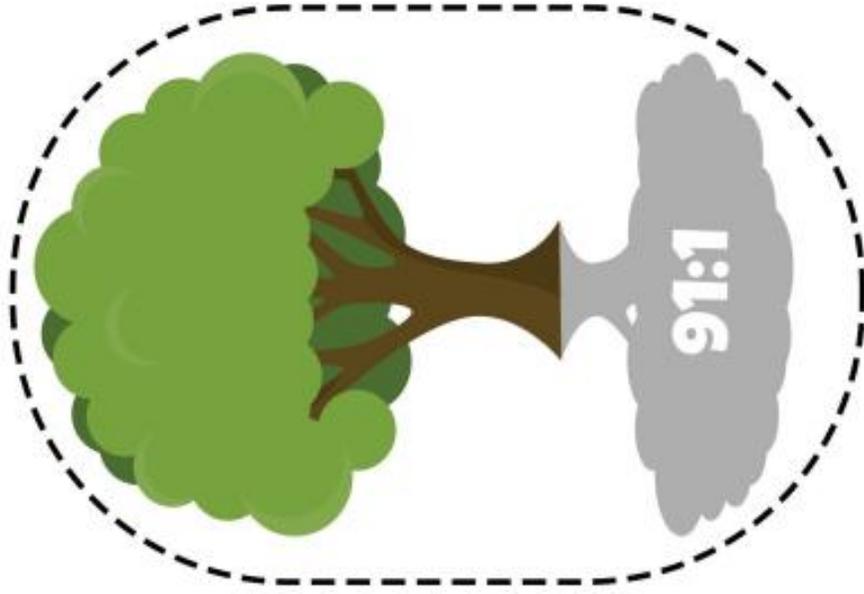
Power Verse Print Piece: Thursday



Power Verse Print Piece: Thursday



Power Verse Print Piece: Thursday



Resting In The Shadow Recap: Saturday



WHATCHAGADDAKNOW

"I Won't _____; I
Will _____ In God!"

POWER VERSE

"Those who live in the _____
of the Most High will find _____
in the _____ of the Almighty."
Psalm 91:1

BIBLE STORY

Who were the two preachers
in our Bible Story? _____

What happened to Paul and
Silas after they preached?

Rather than worry, what did
Paul and Silas do? _____

MAIN POINTS

"If I _____ In God, I Don't Have
To Worry."

"Worry Never Trusts &
Trust Never _____."

According to our lesson today, "I Must
Live Under God's _____."

UNSCRAMBLE

Using just the letters in "Don't Worry About It,"
make as many new words as possible.
