

Game Time! Floor is Lava

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Good morning! As you can tell, today is a little bit different here at Connection Community Church! We have dubbed today “Kids’ Sunday” and we are celebrating all things Connection Kids’ Ministry, including our great VBX that happened this week!

Boys and girls, didn’t we have SO MUCH FUN THIS WEEK?!

Since I’m basically a big kid myself, I’m here to help wrap it all together today.

And we’re going to continue the fun right now! Mr. Kyle, come on up and tell us what we’re going to do today!

- *(Invite Mr. Kyle and kids up to play Floor is Lava, with music and kids singing and dancing in the front. When finished, invite kids to have a seat in the front.)*

We just played the game Floor Is Lava. What is the number one rule of floor is lava?

Right! You have to get off the floor because the floor is supposed to be lava. And everyone knows that we’re not supposed to touch the lava! And if you do, **you’ll end up like Pastor David in our mid-week social video. (pic?)**

When we play this game, whether with the music or just for fun, how easy is it to stay safe? Do you have to think carefully about where we’re stepping? Do you ever feel nervous about falling?

Today, we’re going to tie in our theme from Day 3 of VBX- **God is our Safe place** (Wow, God!) and learn about 3 men who faced something MUCH hotter than pretend lava. Shadrach, Meshach and Abendego took a stand for God, and they found themselves in a “hot” situation where they really needed God to be their refuge in a “fiery” time.

But guess what? They weren’t afraid because they trusted God!

It all started with a crazy King and a crazy decree, to bow down and worship him instead of God-Let’s take a look-some of our friends are going to help us with the story today.

VIDEO

Wow, they did a great job telling this story today!

See, these men stood up for what they knew was right-no one else deserves our worship but God. And they stood up for God even though they knew they would be punished and thrown into the fiery furnace.

But they also knew that God was with them, and they trusted that God would take care of them.

And how surprised was the King when the guys came out and they were completely fine?

See, when we play games like Floor is Lava, we all try to avoid the lava. And in life, we all naturally try to avoid hard things like pain, or sadness, or scary situations.

And sometimes, maybe life feels like we ARE walking through fire.

Like when someone gets sick. Or you're being bullied and made fun of. Or your parents are fighting, or you feel so alone and afraid.

Those kinds of things in our life can sometimes feel as painful as fire.

This story helps to reminds us that just because we say "YES" to Jesus, it doesn't mean we're not going to have hard or sad times.

But it does mean that God is going to be with us when we do. God walks with us through those hard times. He doesn't leave us, he is right there with us.

Our friends didn't read this part, but in Daniel 3:25, it tells us that when King Nebuchadnezzar looked in the fiery furnace, he shouted-

"Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!"

See, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego weren't rescued FROM the fire.

They were rescued IN the fire.

How many of us need to remember that? Big people too??

Let's pray. (Repeat after me prayer)- Dear Jesus, thank you so much for loving me. Help me Jesus to always remember that you are with me in the hard times. Help me remember that I can always go to you anytime. I love you. Amen!

To help you remember this, we've got some coloring pages and crayons and a little treat to send you back to who you came with today so I can talk to the parents for just a few moments.

- *Dismiss back to parents with coloring page and crayons and Jelly beans. Have volunteers help to hand out goodies and send kids back to their seats with families.*

Transition- (thank volunteers-stand up, any part in making VBX happen this year)

Thank you!

Vision Part:

Wow, how encouraging is it to see kids understanding this truth?

We want to take just a few moments to speak to what we believe God is doing and how He is moving here at CCC and in our community.

We have had a team of people meeting together over the last 6 months to pray, dream, vision, and discern where we believe God is calling us a Children's Ministry. One thing that He has made abundantly clear- our mission is to "Connect ALL KIDS with Jesus and the new life He offers." And we want to do this both in our church and in our broader, local community.

As we were gearing up for VBX this summer, one devotion I shared with the team was the story in Matthew where Jesus is starting to get a reputation for hanging out with irreputable people, like Matthew the tax collector. Matthew 9:10-13 says,

"While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick...For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'"

My kids, who know and love Jesus and come to church every week, don't NEED VBX. But the kids out there, THEY DO. For many, this week may have been their very first time hearing about Jesus and the new life He offers.

(VBS Stats- Amy sending final numbers CCC vs community kids, we had kids inviting friends up until the last night!)

(Speak to Day 4 altar call, so many kids coming to Jesus, that's what it's all about!)

This whole idea of "Just showing up...OUT THERE" applies to every area of ministry. It starts with our children, here. Teaching them how to do this and how to reach their friends. Giving them the tools and the conversation points to talk with their friends about Jesus. And providing something that they WANT to and can invite their friends to. (And if we're honest, they're probably better at doing this than many of us are as adults!)

(Speak to Leaves to roots? You change one person you change one person. You change one child, you can transform entire families, entire branches of family trees)

So my question today is this- "How are you called to be apart of what God is doing with the next generation?"

Don't get me wrong, not EVERYONE is called to serve in Kid's ministry the same way

But all of us are called first and foremost to pray. Pray for the next generation. Pray for that neighbor child who rides past your house on their bike each day. Pray for those teens serving you your burger at dinner. Pray for the family in the car sitting next to you at the stoplight. All of us, no matter our age or life circumstance can pray for God to move and stir in their hearts.

And then, next, I ask that you would also consider what He may be calling you to do that, dare I say might be a little uncomfortable? How is He maybe calling you to help that you've been putting off? What is He asking you to do that your response is automatically- No, I've served my time?

Maybe He's calling you to donate toward one of our next gen ministries' or supplies or scholarships. Maybe He's calling you volunteer just once a month in our kid's ministry in some way. Maybe He's calling you to help behind the scenes with needs for our families.

I will boldly say this:

If the vision we have is to see more children and their families come to know Jesus and be transformed by the new life He offers, then we are going to need more leaders, more caring adults, and more volunteers, more of YOU.

Let's just get right to the point- We CAN'T do it without YOU.

We can have the best new plans and ideas and ways we want to do things differently, but we can't make any of it happen with staying exactly as we are, without growing and equipping more people to reach and teach this next generation.

Once again, Matthew hits the nail on the head when he says:

"He saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'" (Matt. 9:36-38)

I don't know about you, but when I look around, I see harvest, and the potential for harvest EVERYWHERE. How fast is our community growing? How many new schools and houses are popping up? The harvest is growing quicker than we can keep up with it. But where are the laborers? Where are the ones who are going to teach, love, pray, and guide?

Something incredibly humbling that I saw this week made me stop in my tracks. It was a reel on Facebook and it had pictures from different church camp activities with a caption that read:

"One encounter with God can redirect an entire lifetime. Tomorrow's missionaries, worship leaders, pastors, church planters, teachers, and church leaders are in this summer's bunk beds."

Or in this summer's VBS programs. Or Sunday morning kids' programming, or Youth groups, or the Nursery.

Pastor David and I are both in ministry today because of these kinds of ministries. David first gave his heart to Jesus at a VBS when he was just 3 years old. I felt my calling to serve and care for others around me at a Mission trip with my youth group the summer going into 8th grade.

These aren't just babysitting opportunities or fun, busy activities to keep kids out of trouble. They are real discipleship opportunities that have lasting impact on not just one generation but generations to come.

The church is always just one generation away from revival or decline. A church could multiply and triple its impact, or it could cease to be effective, die, and close its doors.

Let that all sink in.

If this message resonates with you today, the response I want you to have is simple. You don't need to have it all figured out. You don't even need to know how you want to serve. You just need to have a willing heart.

And in response, I just want you to send me or Miss Amy or even the church office a simple email that just says, "I'm in."

That's it, 2 small words. In a text, email, FB message, I don't care. But tell us you're in and we'll be in touch with you.

And you can be apart of what God is doing in and through this next generation in real, tangible, and even though seemingly small, they're actually pretty big ways.

Let's Pray.

(invite kids back for praise pit last song)