

The Names and Characters of God

ROCK = Strong and Unchanging

“Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you.” Psalm 9:10

Conversation Starters

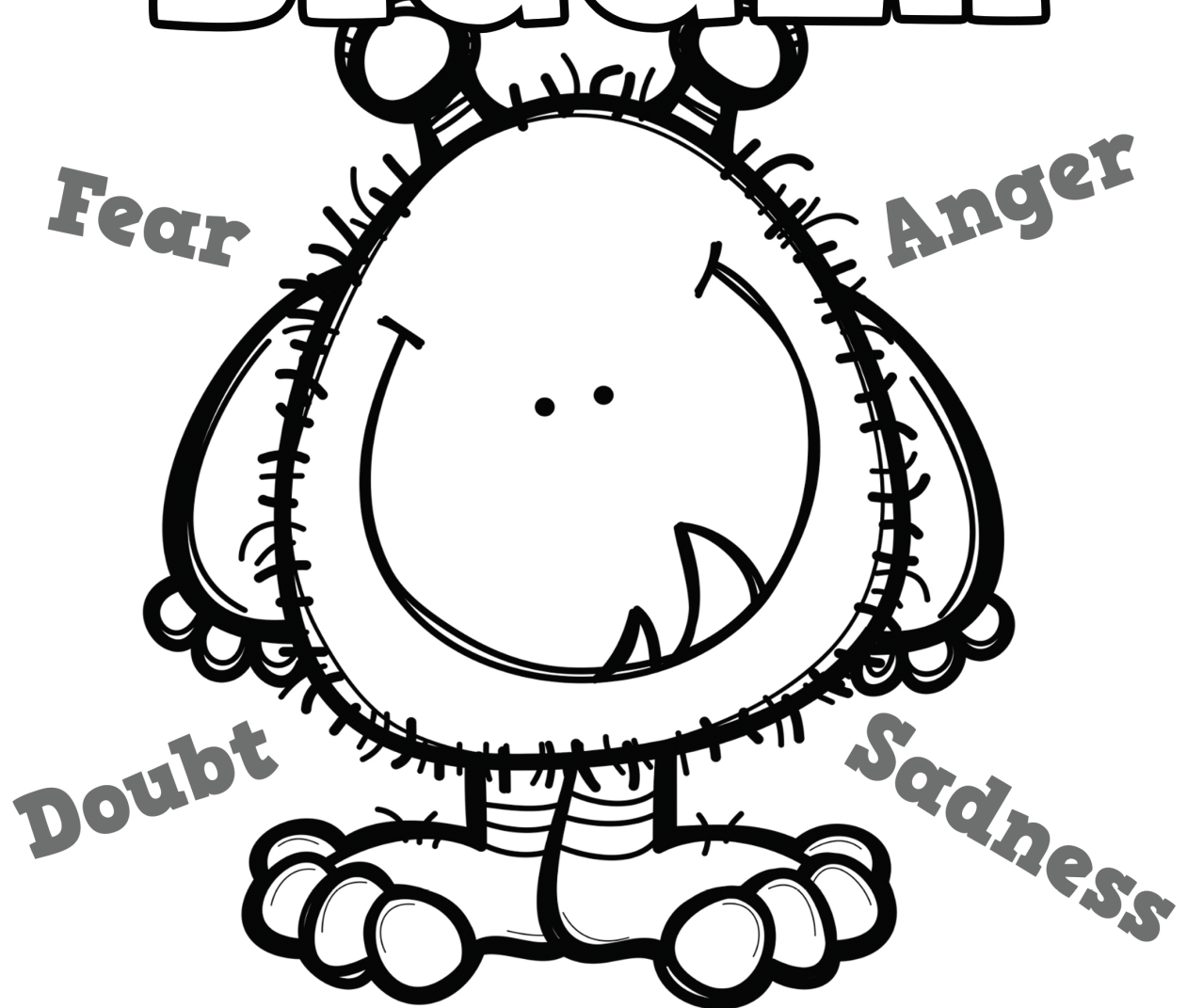
- What words would you use to describe a rock?
- What do you think it would be like to hide behind a big, strong rock and what do you think the rock could protect you from?
- If you build a sand castle at the beach, what would happen to it if it rains? What about a rock? What happens to it when it rains? How is a rock different than sand?
- Your house is built on a strong slab of stone. It is called a foundation. It keeps your house from falling over when its really stormy. It keeps you safe inside. How would you feel if your house was built on sand instead? What do you think would happen to your house if it was built on sand if there is a really windy storm? Would you feel safe in a storm?
- How do you think God is like a Rock?
- What things can you do that will help you stay close to God?

God the Rock protects us. Bad things will happen to us. We still get sick, or lose championship games, or fail tests or have friends move away. Life is rough. God never promises a life without tough times. He does promise to keep us strong through those hard times by being our Rock. Jesus is the solid rock. When we listen to him and do what he tells us to, we will be safe even through the scary storms of life. When we choose to follow our own way and ignore Jesus, our lives fall apart. So God is our Rock. When we listen to him and do what he tells us to, he keeps us safe


Weekly Activities

- * Read the story of the wise & foolish builders- Matthew 7:24-27 with your child (ren). In the story that Jesus told about the wise and foolish builders, he was teaching us something very important about salvation. Probably, when these two houses were built and before the storms came, they both looked good on the outside and no one would know that one of them had a good foundation and one didn't. If we take this comparison to people we could say that there were 2 people who both went to church and both of them tried to do good things and both of them tried not to sin too much, but one of them was just doing these things trying to look good and trying to be strong on their own. Through this story, Jesus was reminding us that we can't do it on our own (**Ephesians 2:8-9**), we can't be good enough (**Romans 3:23**) and that we need to build our lives on Jesus. Jesus needs to be the foundation of our lives. We need to trust and believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins. We need to turn away (repent) from our sin and turn to Jesus as our salvation That's what it means to build your life on the **rock**!
- * Painting rocks. Find a smooth rock about 2-3 inches around. You can also find a bagful of them at the \$store. Paint your rock a solid color and then paint the word "Jesus" in a contrasting color as a reminder that Jesus is your rock.
- * *Balloon Word Search:* find hidden balloons and then to see if you can correctly unscramble the mystery word. Write one letter on an index card until you can spell Jesus is my rock. Fold each index card until it is very small and then place it each one in a different balloon. Blow up all balloons. Hide the balloons around the room. When they find a balloon, they will stomp on it to pop it. If they find a letter, they will place it on the table. They will find and pop balloons until they find all the letters. Once the letters are found, they will need to unscramble them until they figure out what the phrase is. Depending on their age, they may need some hints.
- * **OBJECT LESSON** Demonstrate how important it is to put God first. You will need: a large jar, 10 -12 rocks, sand. (Do a practice run to determine how much sand you will need.) The sand represents all the activities we do in our day. Ask your kids to name things that fill their day like watching tv, eating. As they call out these different activities fill the jar with sand. Now ask them the things they need to do to stay in a relationship with God like reading the bible. For each example they tell you put a rock in the jar. Help them with this list if they have a hard time. When you are done there shouldn't be enough room in the jar for the rocks. Explain that this is a lot like our lives. We get busy with many things and then we don't have time for the important things like spending time with God. Empty the jar of the sand and rock. Start again, putting the rocks (our time with God) in first and then pouring in the sand (our daily activities). As your pouring the sand, explain how important it is to build a strong foundation on God, our **ROCK**. When we put God first everything fits in the jar.

**Jesus is
BIGGER**



**than my
mind monsters**



I'm no longer
a slave to fear,
I am a child
of God

The LORD

is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
MY GOD IS MY ROCK,
in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation,
MY STRONGHOLD.

PSALM 18:2

