



WHOOSH! Lonnie Johnson's SUPER-SOAKING STREAM OF INVENTIONS

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Reading and Activity Guide

BEFORE READING

- + Think of a time you faced a challenge in life - something you found hard to do - maybe you had to try again and again and again to accomplish it. What was the challenge you faced? How did you try to overcome or deal with the challenge? Was someone able to help you, or did you try to figure something out on your own? In today's story, Lonnie Johnson is going to face many challenges. Let's see how he deals with them.

DURING READING

- + What were some things that Lonnie Johnson invented throughout his life?
- + What were some jobs that Lonnie Johnson did, or places he worked?

AFTER READING

- + Think about a time you faced a problem, big or small. How did you figure out how to solve it?
- + Can you remember some of the challenges Lonnie faced? Tell me what it was like for him to overcome his challenges. *Help kids notice that besides resolve and determination, sometimes Lonnie had to WAIT! His problems weren't solved in a day or a week, but maybe months or years!*
- + Read Isaiah 40:31 or Isaiah 40:28-31. Here, Isaiah is reminding us just how powerful God is. Have you ever felt so tired that you needed your mom or dad to carry something for you...or even just carry YOU?! Well, guess what. YOU have a Heavenly Father who is always with you and never gets tired. Spend time with God every day, reading the Bible and praying. "God will renew [your] strength...[You] will mount up with wings like eagles."

SPRINGBOARD ACTIVITIES:

Activity #1: Make Your Own Book! - Did you know that there are many African American inventors just like Lonnie? Alexander Miles invented a mechanism to make elevator doors open and close automatically! Patricia Bath invented laser eye surgery for cataracts! Make your own mini book of famous African American inventors, using this [free mini book template](#). [This website](#) can get you started with a list of inventors, or check out some books from your library! *You don't just have to focus on inventors - learn about dancers, chefs, artists, astronauts, writers, etc!*

Activity #2: What makes someone good at their job? - What makes someone a good inventor? What does an inventor need to be good at inventing? *They can read, think, sketch, ask questions, be patient, figure out solutions, try and try again...* What makes someone a good artist? *They're creative, they have an imagination and ideas... Interesting...so....* Can I tell if someone is going to be a good inventor...by the color of their socks? *No!!* Can I tell if someone is going to be a good artist because of what their hair looks like? *No!!* Can I tell if someone is going to be an excellent chef by looking at the shape of their eyes or nose? *No!!* Can I tell if someone is going to be smart or creative or talented by looking at the color of their skin? *No!!* You're right, these things don't tell me if someone is going to be good at a certain job. I have to look inside, at who the person is. As humans, we might make judgements about people based on what they look like or by what their name is, etc. But God looks at people's hearts. We, too, should judge a person by their actions and character rather than what they look like or sound like. (1 Samuel 16:7)

