



UNIT 16 | SESSION 1 | NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 1, 2019

## 2s-3s Lesson

# The Fiery Furnace

**Bible Passage:** Daniel 3

**Story Point:** God saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fire.

**Key Passage:** “Pray constantly, give thanks in everything” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus rescues us so we can be with God forever.

**KID CONNECT:**  
30 MINUTES

**LARGE GROUP:**  
15 MINUTES

**SMALL GROUP:**  
15 MINUTES

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Daniel and his three friends faced a test of their faith. King Nebuchadnezzar’s law gave them a choice: worship a statue (against God’s law) or face death by fiery furnace (Dan. 3:6).

Three men from Judah—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—refused to bow down and worship the statue. They loved and worshiped the one true God. Only He was worthy of their worship. The Chaldeans took this opportunity to go to the king and tell on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But not even the threat of death could convince the three friends to renounce their loyalty to God.

As you teach, lead preschoolers to consider the possibilities: God could keep the friends from being thrown into the furnace. Or, once in the furnace, God could keep them from being harmed. Or if they perished, God would receive them into heaven. The friends’ trust in God enabled them to stand firm no matter what—even as they were tied up and thrown into the fire.

Then something miraculous happened. Nebuchadnezzar saw four men in the fire! They were walking around, unharmed! The Lord not only rescued Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, He was with them.

On the cross, people mocked Jesus: “He saved others, but he cannot save himself!” Mark 15:31. Jesus was physically able to save Himself, but He chose to do His Father’s will, and His love for people

kept Him there. Jesus chose not to save Himself so that He could save others.

## KID CONNECT

### WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

*Play* intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

### LISTEN AND FALL DOWN

(SFX: UPBEAT MUSIC)

(no supplies needed)

*Play* upbeat music. Direct children to wiggle, jump, sing, and dance while the music plays, but when the music stops, they must collapse onto the floor. Play several rounds as time allows.

SAY • In today's Bible story, the king made a tall gold statue. He told the people to fall down and worship the statue whenever they heard music play. Do you think God wanted the people to worship a statue? No, God wants people to worship and trust Him only. Listen to the Bible story to hear about three men who chose to worship God instead of the statue.

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

*Show* the countdown video as the children move to Large Group.

### WORSHIP

(VIDEO: JUMP, CLAP, TWIST, VIDEO: CHRISTMAS MEDLEY)

(scarves)

*Provide* scarves for children to dance with during worship. The sing "Jump, Clap, Twist" and "Christmas Medley."

### INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible, bookmark)

Place a bookmark at Daniel 3 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is the most important book there is. The Bible is God’s Word, and God’s Word is true! Today’s Bible story is from the Old Testament Book of Daniel.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

## WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

**(VIDEO: THE FIERY FURNACE, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)**  
**(red, yellow, and orange streamers – 1 per child)**

Distribute one streamer to each child and encourage them to wave it when they hear the word *fire* in the Bible story. Show the Bible story video.

SAY • How exciting that God saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fire. God rescued them! We also need someone to rescue us. Jesus came to save us in an even better way. God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our wrong choices. Jesus saves us so we can be with God forever.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY • Jesus rescues us so we can be with God forever.

## PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

**(CG: KEY PASSAGE)**  
**(Bible, Bookmark)**

Place the key passage marker at 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • “Pray constantly (press hands together), give thanks in everything (bow with hands pressed together).” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Our key passage tells us to give thanks in everything. How thankful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego must have been that God kept them safe from the fire! Even the king praised God for delivering them!

## PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

## SMALL GROUP

**Bible Passage:** Daniel 3

**Story Point:** God saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fire.

**Key Passage:** “Pray constantly, give thanks in everything” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus rescues us so we can be with God forever.

### STEP IN THE BOX

(masking tape - 1 per group)

Tape a square on the ground and call out three preschoolers at a time to step inside the box. Briefly retell the Bible story as you step inside the box.

SAY • Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego loved only God. God kept them safe from the fire. Jesus rescues us so we can be with God forever. WE CAN TALK TO GOD. Only Jesus rescues us from our wrong choices.

### TOSS AND CATCH STREAMERS

(red, yellow, and orange streamers - 1 per child/previously used in Large Group)

Invite preschoolers to toss and catch red, yellow, and orange streamers. Talk about colors of fire. Talk about how the three friends were not hurt because God kept them safe.

SAY • Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego loved only God. God kept them safe from the fire. WE CAN TALK TO GOD.

### BIBLE STORY PUZZLE

(Bible story picture poster cut into 3-4 strips - 1 per group)

Retell the Bible story while you invite the preschoolers to reassemble the puzzle.

SAY • King Nebuchadnezzar made a wrong choice when he wanted the three friends to worship him. Only Jesus rescues us from our wrong choices. WE CAN TALK TO GOD and thank Him for sending Jesus.

### KEY PASSAGE WITH MOTIONS

Act out the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying. “Pray constantly (press hands together), give thanks in everything (bow with hands pressed together)” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

### CIRCLE TIME

(small Bibles - 2-3 per group, key passage card and Bible story picture - 1 per group)

*Provide* small Bibles for preschoolers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to Daniel 3. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray.

### **GOSPEL GEMS**

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego loved only God.
- God kept them safe from the fire.
- Only Jesus rescues us from our wrong choices.

## **CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS**

**(Big Picture Card, 1 per family)**

At pickup or drop off, hand this week's Big Picture Card to each child's influencer. Encourage them to discuss the Big Picture Question & Answer with their preschooler this week.