



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

4s-5s 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.

Big Picture Question: Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know that He hears us.

**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 – 1 per child)

Provide scarves for children to dance with during worship. Then 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! Because of our wrong choices, we 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!

LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION

(CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

SAY • Our big picture question asks, *Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know He hears us.* Praying is talking to God. We talk to God, and He hears us. Praying is a way we worship God. The three friends chose to worship God instead of the statue. Even when they were told they would be thrown into the fire, they trusted God and He saved 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.

Big Picture Question: Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know that He hears us.

BUILD A FURNACE WITH BLOCKS

(blocks – per group, red, yellow, orange construction paper – 1 ½ sheet of each per group, 4 people figures (optional) – per group)

Invite preschoolers to work together to build a furnace with blocks. Encourage them to rip pieces of red, orange, and yellow construction paper to place in the furnace to represent fire. Consider providing four people figures for preschoolers to play out the Bible story.

SAY • When the king looked in the fiery furnace, he did not just see Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He saw a fourth person in the fire with them. The fourth person looked like an angel. God saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fire. They were not burned and did not even smell like smoke. Jesus came to save us in an even better way. Jesus died so we wouldn't be punished for our wrong choices. He was punished instead. When we know and love Jesus, Jesus saves us so we can be with God forever.

MOVE UNDER A PARACHUTE

(1 parachute, or 1 red, orange or yellow sheet per group)

Set a parachute or red, orange, or yellow sheet on the floor. Invite preschoolers to stand around the parachute and hold onto the edge. Give directions for moving the parachute. Invite three preschoolers at a time to sit under the parachute while the rest of the group shakes it.

SAY • Being in a fiery furnace in real life is not fun! God saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fire. Jesus came to save us in an even better way. Jesus died so we wouldn't be punished for our wrong choices. He was punished instead. When we know and love Jesus, Jesus saves us so we can be with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE WITH MOTIONS

(no supplies needed)

Practice 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.

REVIEW AND PRAYER

(1 Bible story picture poster per group)

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

What did King Nebuchadnezzar tell the people to do whenever they heard music? (*Worship a gold statue.*)

What would happen to anyone who did not worship the statue? (*They would be thrown into a very hot fire.*)

Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego obey the king? (*No, they worshiped only God.*)

What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire? (*Nothing, they were neither hurt nor smelled like smoke. God kept them safe.*)

How many men did the king see in the fire? (*four*)

Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know He hears us.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Preschool Activity Page, 1 per child and crayons)

Preschoolers may color the Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage them to do the activity page at home with their family this week.