



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

K-1 Lesson

The Fiery Furnace

Bible Passage: Daniel 3

Story Point: God delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the king.

Key Passage: “Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

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

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 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 kids 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: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

GETTING WARMER

(small toy or plastic treasure)

Hide a small toy or plastic treasure somewhere in the room. Challenge the kids to find the item. Give clues as kids move about the room, saying “getting warmer” or “getting colder” depending on how close to, or far from, the object kids move. As kids get very near to finding the object, use hyperbole such as “you are burning up!” or “you are on fire!” to emphasize how close they are.

SAY • Obviously, none of you actually caught fire or were burned by getting close to the hidden toy. In real life, fire can be dangerous. Today we will hear about three men who faced an extremely dangerous fire. What do you think happened to them?

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

LARGE GROUP GAME

(CG: GAME TIME SLIDE, SFX: GAME INTRO MUSIC, PROGRAM: 1 HOOF, 2 HOOF, NONE)

1 HOOF, 2 HOOF, NONE

(no supplies needed)

SAY • It’s game time again! And Christmas is quickly approaching so we thought we’d play a Christmas themed game! This one is called 1 Hoof, 2 Hoof, None. Everybody stand up! The game is simple; when I say go you are going to either put one hoof up in the air (one arm), two hooves up in the air (two arms) or none (no arms up). Then, we are going to click the randomizer and the game will randomly decide which one wins that round. If you chose the correct one, you’re still in and can play round 2! If not, you’re out and have to sit down. We

will play this over and over until there's one winner. Ready? Dust off those hooves and let's play!

NOTE: When you get down to roughly 6-8 kids left, have them come up on the stage or stand in the staging area facing the audience to add drama to the game (and help prevent cheating). Also, if you get down to 2-3 kids, have them each pick a different option so there is a guaranteed winner.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: ALIVE, VIDEO: NOEL)

SAY • Let's worship God!

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(VIDEO: FURY 325 ROLLERCOASTER DROP)

(no supplies needed)

Show the Fury 325 Rollercoaster Drop Video.

SAY • Oh hey, everyone! My name is [your name]. Did you know that you guys aren't the only ones in a small group? Nope! I'm in one too. And I am so excited because tomorrow my small group is going to Carowinds - the super fun theme park on the border of North Carolina and South Carolina! My favorite ride is the Fury 325. It's the world's tallest and fastest giga coaster! It takes over a minute just to ride up the hill before the first big drop. But rather than me talking about it, how about I show it to you? Watch this!

I can't wait!! You know, just thinking about how tall the Fury 325 is reminds me of a Bible story about something else that was super tall. Not a roller coaster though. Those didn't exist in Bible times. This is a story about a giant statue. So let's do it.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

(CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

SAY • But first, one thing we can do to help us stay on track while we hear our Bible story is to use a big picture question. During the next few weeks we'll answer this question: *Why do we pray?* Have you ever thought about that? Prayer is super important! As you listen to the story try to think of the answer to this question: *Why do we pray?*

GIANT TIMELINE

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY • God's people, the nation of Israel, refused to obey God. As punishment for their disobedience, God allowed them to be conquered by Babylon. God loved and cared for His people, and even during their time in captivity, He was still with them.

Today's story is from the Book of Daniel. Daniel was a man from Judah taken to Babylon when God sent His people into captivity. Our story today is about three of Daniel's friends who were also from Judah. Check it out.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: THE FIERY FURNACE, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)
(Bible)

Show the Bible story video "The Fiery Furnace."

SAY • Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down to the statue like everyone else. They could have blended into the crowd and no one would have known. But God would have known. The three friends loved God. They knew that worshiping anyone or anything else was sin. Only God deserves worship. The three friends were willing to die in order to obey God.

I love how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego responded to the king. They knew that God was powerful and able to protect them from the flames. But they also knew that if God didn't save them from the fire, He was still good. God allowed them to be throw into the fire, but they were not harmed, and they didn't even smell like smoke!

God delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the king. It is comforting to know that we can trust God even when we face danger. That reminds me of our big picture question. *Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know He hears us.*

CHRIST CONNECTION

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

SAY • God showed Himself faithful to the three friends even though He did not keep them from being put in the fiery furnace. Instead, God showed His power to King Nebuchadnezzar and everyone who was watching that day. God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire. Only He could rescue them. God rescues us too, through His Son, Jesus. Only Jesus can save us from our sin. When Jesus died on the cross, He made a way for us to be rescued from sin and have life forever with God.

KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible, Key Passage Marker)

Show the key passage slide. Open Bible and lead the kids to read together 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

SAY • "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Our key passage comes from 1 Thessalonians in the New Testament, which is the second half of the Bible. God wants us to remember to rejoice, pray, and give thanks to Him no matter what our circumstances.

PRAY AND DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Daniel 3

Story Point: God delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the king.

Key Passage: “Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

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

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

(Key passage poster – 1 per group, 1 small ball – per group)

Read the key passage aloud several times to the kids. Instruct the kids to stand in a circle. Give one kid a ball. The first kid will say the first word or phrase of the key passage then pass the ball to the person next to them in the circle. That child will say the second word or next phrase before passing the ball. Continue until kids have said the entire passage.

SAY • Are there ever times it’s hard to praise God? Are there times that you don’t feel thankful to Him? Our key passage teaches us that no matter what is going on in our lives we can still give thanks to God. He is good all the time! We may be confused by something difficult like how to deal with a bully at school, or being kind to your siblings, but we can trust that God has a plan for even the hard times!

FIRE CUP KNOCKDOWN

(3 red cups – per group, 1 straw – per kid)

Form two teams in your group. Stack the three red plastic cups to represent flames. Distribute one straw to each kid. Kids will then take turns blowing to put out the “flames.” The goal is to knock over all three cups in one big breath. Rebuild their “fires” after each kid’s turn. Collect straws at the end of the activity and throw them away.

SAY • It may have been pretty easy for you to put out your “fires,” but it wouldn’t have been easy to put out the fire in the hot furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God despite the fear they certainly felt. They knew God was powerful enough to save them, but even if He didn’t, they would never bow down to Nebuchadnezzar’s statue. God delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the king.

FIRE TISSUE CRAFT

(“Fiery Furnace” printable – 1 per kid, red, yellow, & orange tissue squares – 3-4 of each color per kid, glue sticks & crayons – per group)

Distribute a coloring page to each kid. Have them color the picture and then glue the tissue flames in the front of the men. As the children work discuss how fire is dangerous.

SAY • God protected Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego and they did not get burned in the fire. When the men came out of the furnace, they didn't even smell like smoke. Isn't that amazing? Remember that fire can hurt you and that you should not play with fire or matches.

DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

What did King Nebuchadnezzar want people to worship? (*A large golden statue, Dan. 3:1*)

How did the King punish the friends for not worshipping the statue? (*They were thrown into the fiery furnace, Dan. 3:21*)

What did the King see when he looked into the furnace? (*The three friends walking around with a fourth person who looked like a god, Dan. 3:25*)

Why happened when the king saw that the friends were safe in the fire? *The king let the friends come out of the furnace and the King praised God. Guide kids to see that God used this scary situation to show Nebuchadnezzar that God is powerful and mighty to save His people. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego went through the fire for God to be praised.*

What are some things that we worship other than God? *Guide the kids to see that good gifts from God turn into idols if we love them more than we love God. When we ask for forgiveness, God forgives us and changes our hearts to love Him more.*

How does knowing that God does everything for His praise and our good help us when we face scary situations? *Guide the kids to see that though God doesn't promise us physical safety, He promises that He will never leave us. He will help us through hard times. God is in control of everything that happens in our lives.*

SAY • God delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the king to show how powerful He was. He blessed their obedience to Him when they refused to worship anything other than Him.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

(Bible Story Coloring Page - 1 per kid, crayons)

Ask the kids the following questions:

What does this story teach me about God?

What does this story teach me about myself?

Who can I tell about this story?

Make time for prayer requests and pray for your group. If time allows, have kids complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Activity Page - 1 per kid)

Send home the Activity Page and encourage kids to complete it with their family.