

When finished with activities, return all necessary items to bag and place in the hallway for pick-up.

Program B-2

Friends in a Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-30

Daniel Series: Lesson #3

Bible Verse: Do not make idols of any kind. Exodus 20:4 (NLT)
God gives wisdom to the wise. Daniel 2:21
God gives food to us. Psalm 136:25

Bible Story for children:

Focus on: We should not worship idols or other gods.
God cares for us when we need Him.

Prop ideas: Cloth bag (furnace), 4 dolls or blocks (Have one hidden in the bag, let children place the other three in the bag at the right time. Let them see all four in the bag, but only pull out three)
Use crepe paper or ribbon to “bind up” a child as you tell the story. Rip away the binding at the appropriate time.

SAMPLE STORY

King Nebuchadnezzar saw how wise Daniel and his friends were. He heard how Daniel gave credit to the **LORD** God for everything. But, the king still did a very foolish thing. He made a HUGE statue of gold, an image or idol to worship. It was 90 feet tall...that's 9 stories high! The king commanded that whenever special music was played (horns, flutes, zithers, lyres, harps and pipes) everyone was to stop what they were doing and fall down and worship this statue. Anyone who refused to do it would be thrown into the fiery furnace.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew that if they bowed down to the idol, that they would be disobeying God. They knew God had said, “Do not make idols of any kind.” Exodus 20:4 (NLT) They refused to bow to the idol. This made some other people mad. They told the king about it. The king asked them, “Is it true that you will not worship the image of gold I have set up? If you refuse to do this, I will have you thrown into the fiery furnace.”

The men answered, “If we are thrown into the furnace, the God we serve is able to save us. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, we will never serve your gods of worship the golden image you have set up.” This made the king furious. He ordered the fire to be heated seven times hotter than normal. He commanded the three to be tied up and thrown into

the furnace. The fire was so hot that the soldiers who carried them to the furnace were killed by the flames.

The king looked into the furnace with amazement. He expected the men to burn up quickly and die. “Weren’t there only three men in the furnace? I see four...and they are all walking around. Their God really has saved them! Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out. Come here.”

They came out of the fire. Everyone crowded around them. The fire had not burned their bodies or hair. Their robes were not scorched. There was not even any smell of fire on them. King Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants. They trusted Him. They were willing to give their lives rather than worship any god but their own God. I order that anyone who says anything bad about their God will be punished.”

The king then promoted them to higher positions in Babylon. Not only did God protect them for being obedient to Him, they were rewarded with better jobs in the kingdom. We should trust God to protect us when we follow Him as well.

FYI

First Session Classes will be:

- Eating “Fiery Furnace Food” Snack
- Playing in a “Fiery Furnace”
- Coloring “Fiery Furnace” Story Booklet

PARACHUTE GAME (SHEET)

Materials: Large sheet

Do:

- Gather children in a circle. Open the sheet and have everyone grab an edge.
- Work together to raise and lower the sheet slowly.
- Choose 3 children to be Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Have them go into the “Fiery Furnace.”
- Send in a fourth child to be the angel who helped them.
- Call them all out.
- Repeat with new children.

If you have a small class, play as follows:

- Gather children in a circle. Open the sheet and have everyone grab an edge.
- Work together to raise and lower the sheet slowly.
- Call out a name and let that child run under the sheet and stay there as the sheet goes up and down one time. He/she should then run back to his/her place.
- Call another name. And repeat until everyone has had a turn.

Talk about: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego may have been afraid of the furnace, but that knew they should obey God. They knew that He would care for them. He sent his angel to take care of them in the furnace. God watches over us, too. Let's pretend to be in the furnace and have God's angel care for us.

READING BOOKS

Teacher Extra: Do you have a storybook of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Bring it and read to the children. Bring any other favorite Bible Stories to share.

Materials: Books (In room)

If your room is short on books, ask your coordinator to borrow some from the resource room behind the new Joyland Desk.

Do: Quietly read to a few children as the others play different activities.

Talk about: If reading a Bible story, emphasize the importance of obeying and loving God. Point out God's protection and miracles.

PAINTING WITH A GOLF BALL

Materials: Box (Size – Case of canned soft drinks)
 Black Construction Paper
 Golf ball
 Bible Verse Stickers
 Red/yellow/orange Paint (in first floor kitchen)
 Tape (in room)

Do: Tape a piece of paper inside on the bottom of the box. Either help each child drop a few dabs (tsp.) of paint onto the paper or let them do it. (2 or more colors are nice). Place the golf ball in the box. Help them tilt the box gently side to side to make the golf ball roll through the paint and around on the paper. Add a Bible Verse Sticker.

Talk about: This "Fiery" picture can remind us to obey God. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were willing to go into the fire rather than worship an idol.