

Week of November 8, 2009

## Lessons for the Leader

What scares you? Spiders? Snakes? High places? Public speaking? Fear of losing your life for what you believe? Place yourself in the position of the men in today's Bible story. How scared would you be?

- Read Daniel 2:46-49 and 3:1-7. What do you think caused Nebuchadnezzar to move from saying Daniel's God is "God of gods and Lord of kings" to building the statue? How do you think Daniel felt? What does the people's response to the command to worship the statue say about their commitment to God? Can you draw any present-day parallels with these events?
- Read Daniel 3:8-23. What would you do? Would you give in to the demands of Nebuchadnezzar? Would you have the faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Reread verses 16-18. How would you describe these men's faith? How does your faith compare to theirs? When you face difficult times, do you claim the power of God to help you?
- Read Daniel 3:24-30. What do you think Nebuchadnezzar thought would happen to the men? How did he react upon discovering there were four men in the furnace? Why do you think the presence of God caught him so off guard? How did the presence of God impact him? Do you think his praise to God was heartfelt praise or simply lip service?

Do you ever feel like you are facing a furnace? In what ways can you trust God to help you? How do your family, friends, and co-workers see you taking a stand for what you believe? Do you live out the life application, *When I am afraid, I can trust God?* When you learn to trust Him, then fear becomes something about which you do not need to worry.

### What do these symbols mean?

- ➔ **Application Activities Format:** Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.
- 1 Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.



## Powerful Obedience

**Focus Passage:** Daniel 3

**Key Bible Verse:** Psalm 56:3

### Life Application

When I am afraid, I can trust God.

**Level of Biblical Learning (God)**

God is powerful.

## Session at a Glance

### Introduction to Worship (6 to 8 minutes)

Welcome the Children

Create Bible Story Props

### Worship (30 minutes/45 minutes)

Sing "Ancient of Days"

Sing "I'm Gonna Bless"

Call to Worship

Sing "Holy, Holy, Holy"/Receive Offering

Pray

Introduce the Bible Story

Tell the Bible Story

Review Bible Story/Learn Key Bible Verse

Discuss Life Application

Show "Questions From You" Video

Pray

Sing "I Just Love Worshipping You"

### Application Activities (20 minutes)

### Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

# Introduction to Worship

**1** → Welcome the Children

**2** → Create Bible Story Props

## Pull It Together

Large box; box cutter (adult use only); tape; red, yellow, orange paper streamers; poster board; markers; scissors

- Cut a large hole in the box.

## Teacher Tip

Have a large number of children? Allow the children to create the Bible study area as the furnace instead of using the box.

- Explain: "Our Bible study involves a large statue of King Nebuchadnezzar [NEB-yoo-kad-NEZ-uh] and a furnace with very hot flames. We need to create these items for our Bible study."
- Guide the children to work in teams to create the statue and furnace.
- Place completed items in Bible study area.

- Call attention to the statue.
- Discuss why people create statues.
- Say: "King Nebuchadnezzar created a statue of himself. His statue was made of gold and stood 90 feet tall and was 9 feet wide. Listen for what he demanded of the people."
- Call attention to the furnace.
- Say: "In Bible times, furnaces were used to heat materials to really high temperatures. These temperatures would melt metals for forming or baking bricks for buildings. Listen to how a furnace is important in today's Bible story."
- Guide children to open their Bibles to Daniel 3.

**9** → Tell Bible Story (7 minutes)

## Pull It Together

Scissors, tape, construction paper, markers

- Create name tags for Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and the guard.
- Choose volunteers to role play the individuals. Place name tags on the individuals.

- Open your Bible to Daniel 3.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words.

## Worship

**3** → Sing "Ancient of Days" (DVD, 3 minutes)

**4** Sing "I'm Gonna Bless" (DVD, 3 minutes)

**5** → Call to Worship (2 minutes)

- Say: "We worship God in many ways. We worship by singing His praises. When we worship, we take the time to think about how great God is. There is no other god like Him. Listen to what Psalm 105:1-6 says."
- Appoint a child to read aloud Psalm 105:1-6.

**6** → Sing "Holy, Holy, Holy"/Receive Offering (DVD, 3 minutes)

- Receive offering.

**7** → Pray (2 minutes)

- Direct the children to silently complete the statement "Lord, You are \_\_\_\_\_."
- Thank God for His great love and power.

**8** → Introduce the Bible Story (3 minutes)

## Pull It Together

Statue and furnace from Introduction to Worship

## Three Friends in a Fire

*Based on Daniel 3*

King Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue, 90 feet tall and 9 feet wide. He set it in Babylon and sent word for the leaders of the territory to come to the statue's dedication. (*King Nebuchadnezzar stands beside statue.*)

All of the people gathered for the dedication and stood near the statue. (*Guide children to gather near the statue.*)

The order was given: when you hear the music of the drums, flutes, and horns, you are to fall down and worship the statue. Anyone refusing to bow will be thrown into a furnace of fire.

The music began to play and the people worshiped the statue. (*Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego do not kneel.*)

Three young Jewish men refused to bow. Shadrach [SHAD-rak], Meshach [MEE-shak], and Abednego [uh-BED-nih-goh] loved the one true God and would not worship the statue.

When Nebuchadnezzar heard that they ignored his orders, he became furious. He ordered the men to be brought to him and he gave them one more chance to bow. (*Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego stand in front of King.*) The king said: "Get ready. When you hear the music play, you will worship this statue! If you refuse, you will be thrown into the fire. Who is your God that He can save you from me?"

The men told the king they trusted in God to take care of them. They said: "We know our God has the power to save us, but even if He doesn't save us, we will not bow to the statue."

Nebuchadnezzar became so angry he ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than normal. The king called for his mightiest men to throw the men into the fire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tied up and thrown in! (*Guard places Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego in furnace.*) The fire was so hot, the king's men died as they threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace!

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego fell into the fire. The king looked in and said: "Didn't we throw three men into the furnace? And weren't they tied up?" His men answered yes. King Nebuchadnezzar was amazed as he said he could now see four men in the furnace and they were walking around in the fire! He said the fourth man looked like the son of the gods!

Nebuchadnezzar called for the three men to come out from the fire. (*Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego come out of furnace.*) When they did, not a single hair on their head was burned and they did not even smell like smoke!

King Nebuchadnezzar gave a new order. All the people of the territory were to know there is no other God like the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. (*Actors return to their seats.*)

**10** → Review Bible Story/Learn Key Bible Verse (4 minutes)

#### **Pull It Together**

Print and display "Friends" Teaching Picture (CD).

- Call attention to the teaching picture.

- Discuss the decisions made in the Bible story. (*Nebuchadnezzar built a statue and ordered people to worship it; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not worship; they were thrown in the furnace; Nebuchadnezzar said there is no god like God*)
- Discuss what can be learned from the Bible story.
- Ask: "Do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were scared? What would you have done? How did they trust God? Can we trust God when we are afraid?"
- Guide children to locate Psalm 56:3 in their Bibles.
- Select volunteers to read aloud the verse.
- Discuss and apply the verse.

**11** → Discuss Life Application (6 minutes)

#### **Pull It Together**

Worship Guides, pencils

- Distribute Worship Guides and pencils.
- Guide the children to complete "An aMAZEing Outcome." Discuss the life application statement (*When I am afraid, I can trust in God*).
- Prompt the children to complete "Afraid?"
- Discuss fears. Invite the children to state some of the things they fear. Discuss how God can help people deal with their fears.
- Call attention to "Read It! Trust It!" Locate and read aloud the verses.

**12** → Show "Questions From You" Video (DVD, 7 minutes)

- Show video.
- Say: "Madelyn said some fears are common and some are unique. How can we deal with the fears we face? What are some ways the 'experts' said we could deal with fears?"

**13** → Pray (1 minute)

**14** Sing "I Just Love Worshiping You" (DVD, 3 minutes)

**15** → Transition to Application Activities or Wrap-Up.

# Wrap-Up

(Large Group Only Format)

## 16 Play "Afraid/Not Afraid" (6 minutes)

### Pull It Together

Construction paper, marker, tape

- Write *Afraid* and *Not Afraid* on 2 sheets of paper. Attach the pages at opposite ends of the room.

- Explain: "There are many things people fear. Today we discussed how we should trust God when we are fearful. Let's think about specific ways we can trust God when we face fearful situations."
- Call attention to the *Afraid* and *Not Afraid* posters.
- Continue: "I will state something some people fear. If I had the item in this room, or asked you to do what I say, would you be afraid or not? If you would be afraid, then move to the *Afraid* sign. If you would not be afraid, move to the *Not Afraid* sign. Be honest."
- Read aloud the items listed below. Invite the children to state how they can trust God when facing these fears.

### Afraid/Not Afraid

- Thunderstorms
- Flying in an airplane
- Spiders
- Riding in an elevator
- Making a speech
- Failing a test
- Trying out for a sports/dance team
- Darkness
- Snakes
- Getting a shot from the doctor
- Someone you love dying

- Explain: "There are times we all face fearful situations. When we face these situations we need to remember to always put our trust in God."

## 17 Pray (1 minute)

- Thank God for His help in dealing with fearful situations.

## 18 Sing "Almighty God" (DVD, 3 minutes)

# Wrap-Up

(Application Activities Format)

## 16 → Review Application Activities (5 minutes)

- Invite the children to share their Application Activity experiences.
  - Arts and Crafts—Pillowcases
  - Dramatic Play—Poetry
  - Games—Spelling Fears
  - Exploration and Discovery—Situations

## 17 → Discuss Fearful Situations (4 minutes)

- Explain: "There are many things people fear. Today we discussed how we should trust God when we are fearful. Let's think about specific ways we can trust God when we face fearful situations."
- Continue: "I will state something some people fear. How can we trust God when facing these fears?"

### Afraid/Not Afraid

- Thunderstorms
- Flying in an airplane
- Spiders
- Riding in an elevator
- Making a speech
- Failing a test
- Trying out for a sports/dance team
- Darkness
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- Getting a shot from the doctor
- Someone you love dying

- Explain: "There are times we all face fearful situations. When we face these situations we need to remember to always put our trust in God."

## 18 → Pray (1 minute)

- Thank God for His help in dealing with fearful situations.

## 19 → Sing "Almighty God" (DVD, 3 minutes)