

LESSON 3—THE FIERY FURNACE

Bible Reference: Daniel 3:1-30

Key Verse: Exodus 24:7—They responded, “We will do and obey everything that the Lord has commanded.”

OVERVIEW

- Bible Story
- Key Verse
- Prayer Part
- Small Group Activities
- A place for students to turn in prayer requests.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Signs that say: *King Nebuchadnezzar, Statue of Gold, 90 Feet Tall, Worship Me*
- The Lord’s Prayer sign
- Each student will need one Ring of Fire cut-out, a Young Men cut-out, and an Angel of the Lord cut-out, a Popsicle stick (preferably large) as well as markers, tape, scissors and crayons.

BIBLE LESSON

(Based on Daniel 3:1-30)

SAY: Good morning. We are so glad that you’re here this morning. Today we’re continuing a new series called “No Compromise: Dare to be a Daniel.”

CONTROL TOOL

Anytime I say, “No Compromise!” I want you to say, “Live for Jesus!”
Practice a few times. If you want have a boys verses girls competition to see who can be louder.

REPEAT after me: *I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength—Philippians 4:13.*

SAY: God gives you the strength to live for Him everyday.

Review

SAY: The past two weeks, we’ve seen how some young men did what was right and how God provided ways for them to keep following Him.

ASK: Who remembers the names of the young men about whom we’ve been learning?
(Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)

ASK: Who remembers the king’s name? *(Nebuchadnezzar)*

ASK: Who can tell me about last week’s story?

SAY: Last week God saved their lives by revealing the dream and its meaning to Daniel. Today their lives are going to be in danger again and three of them are going to have to make a very tough choice.

Bible Story

Choose 2 volunteers.

Give one volunteer the King Nebuchadnezzar sign.

SAY: King Nebuchadnezzar made a statue of gold. *(Give the other volunteer the Statue of Gold sign.)* It was 90 feet tall and 9 feet wide *(Give the volunteer the 90 Feet Tall sign.)*

SAY: Then the king gave word to the leaders and rulers of Babylon to come to the dedication of the image that he had set up.

SAY: When they arrived, a command was given that when the music played, everyone was supposed to bow down and worship the statue. *(Give the volunteer the Worship Me sign.)* And if any didn't they would immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.

ASK: Daniel isn't in today's story but when Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego heard of this, how do you think they felt? (Take a few answers.) Do you think they were scared?

SAY: The Bible doesn't tell us how they felt but we do know that after the music played and everyone bowed down to worship the golden statue, that certain men came to the king to inform him that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not obey his command. They didn't worship the golden image.

ASK: When he heard this, how do you think the king responded? (Let's find out...)

Read Daniel 3:13-15 from your Bible

(Encourage your students to listen for the word "Nebuchadnezzar," and to say "One Bad King," when they hear it. Or instead, you can also challenge them to count how many times they hear you say "Nebuchadnezzar" as you read—Both of these are tools that will encourage your students to listen and participate, even silently, while you read the story. If you have them count, though, be sure to ask for an answer.)

ASK: If a king said this to you, how would you answer him? How do you think these young men answered him?

ASK: Do you think they were tempted to bow down? (Let's find out...)

Read Daniel 3:16-23 from your Bible

ASK: So what do you think about the ending of today's story? (Hopefully your students will be familiar enough with this story to remind you that it's not over yet...)

SAY: You're right—the story is not over yet. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said that they knew that God could deliver them but even if He didn't, they still were not going to sin by bowing down to the statue. This made King Nebuchadnezzar furious—He gave orders for the fire to be made much hotter than normal—so hot, in fact, the soldiers who threw them in died from the heat.

ASK: So what happened to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?

SAY: Imagine how Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego must have felt. They've been tied up. They're being carried toward the flames. Then suddenly the flames don't burn them. The ropes that tied them fall off and even though they're walking around inside the fire, they aren't hurt.

SAY: That's impossible! *(See if you students remember from the last series to say, "Not for God!")*

SAY: What is impossible for us is NOT impossible for God.

ASK: Does anybody remember what else was in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?

SAY: The Bible says that there was a fourth person in the fire with them and the king says that he look like "a son of the gods." In other words, his appearance was supernatural. You see, the Lord was with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, protecting them and saving them.

ASK: How do you think the king responded?

SAY: The Bible says that he was astounded and stood up. He said, "Come out, servants of the Most High God, and come here." *(Have your King Nebuchadnezzar volunteer repeat this after you.)*

SAY: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire. They weren't burnt or hurt and didn't even smell like fire. Only the ropes that tied them had burned away.

SAY: Then the king made a decree that no one could say anything offensive about their God because no other god could do what He did.

KEY: King Nebuchadnezzar saw that their God was real because of how they lived and how they refused to do what was wrong.

SAY: Because of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's willingness to trust God and obey God, King Nebuchadnezzar, who was a very proud and evil king, acknowledged that their God was above all others. Sound familiar? This is the same thing he said after Daniel interpreted his dreams too.

SAY: Let's give our volunteers a hand for helping us.

KEY VERSE

EVERYBODY say, "24/7"

ASK: **Does anyone know what 24/7 means?** (*Take a few answers.*)

ASK: **How many hours are in a day? (24.) How many days are in a week? (7.)**

SAY: 24/7 means every hour of every day.

ASK: **So, if I say that God is with you 24/7, what would that mean?** (God is always with me.)

EVERYBODY say, "24/7"

SAY: Our verse today is Exodus 24:7.

REPEAT after me: Exodus 24:7—They responded, "We will do and obey everything that the Lord has commanded."

SAY: This is a great verse to be found at 24:7 because this is something every one of us should do every hour of every day. We should always "do and obey EVERYTHING that the Lord has commanded."

SAY: Before we finish today, I want to re-cap today's story: Here's how...

-Hold up one finger— Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were tempted to do something they knew was wrong.

-Hold up two fingers—They obeyed God instead.

REPEAT after me: Exodus 24:7—They responded, "We will do and obey everything that the Lord has commanded."

-Hold up three fingers—The king punished them.

-Hold up four fingers—But God protected them.

-Hold up five fingers—Because of how they lived, others could see that their God was real.

SAY: You too can "Dare to be a Daniel." (Or, in today's story, you can be a Shadrach too). Let's say those again but for what they mean to you...

-Hold up one finger—REPEAT after me: "Sometimes I'm tempted to do wrong things..."

-Hold up two fingers— REPEAT after me: "But when I'm tempted I can obey God."

REPEAT after me: Exodus 24:7—They responded, "We will do and obey everything that the Lord has commanded."

-Hold up three fingers— REPEAT after me: "Even if suffer for doing right..."

-Hold up four fingers— REPEAT after me: "I know that God is with me."

-Hold up five fingers— REPEAT after me: "And people can know that God is real because of how I live."

CONTROL TOOL

Leader: "*No Compromise!*" Students: "*Live for Jesus!*"

PRAYER PART—“Who is in Heaven”

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: We’ve been saying the “Lord’s Prayer” each week because we want you to learn it and in a few weeks we’re going to try to say it without using the posters.

SAY: But right now, I want you to think about how Jesus started this prayer.

ASK: *What are the first two words in it? (Our Father.)*

SAY: Last week we learn how if earthly fathers can give good things to their children, how much more can our Heavenly Father give good things to those who ask.

ASK: **But what is the next part of the prayer?** (Who is in Heaven.)

ASK: **Where is God?**

ASK: **Is God in this room?**

ASK: **Was God right there with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fire?**

SAY: Yes, God is everywhere. When this prayer says, “Our Father who is in Heaven,” it’s not saying that God is way over there and not right here. He is not only a “Father” but a “Heavenly Father,” unlike any earthly father. This “Father” has a throne in Heaven where He is worshipped forever.

KEY: Everywhere you go, God is already there and because He is always there and knows everything, even your most secret thoughts, you will never say a prayer that He doesn’t hear.

PRAY

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed, before we pray together, I want you to tell God something you’re scared of. Then I’m going to call out some of today’s prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. *(Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.)*

Dismiss to Small Groups

SAY: Right now it is time for our small groups, so I’m going to dismiss you one row at a time.

Dismiss rows of chairs to the tables in the rooms. Give them specific directions where to go.

The “Fiery Furnace” Craft

SMALL GROUPS

Craft

SAY: Use the following steps to create a fiery furnace craft

- (1) Have students color, cut out and tape in a circle the Ring of Fire for the flames.
- (2) Have students color, cut out and attach to a Popsicle stick Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego characters.
- (3) When finished your students should be able to hold the ring of fire and insert the characters from the story. *(Be sure to remind them that these aren't all the characters—Who is missing? And even though we can't see the Lord, we know He is with us every day every where we go.)*

Discussion Questions

Below are questions that you can discuss with your students before, after or while making the craft:

- In what ways do you feel like you are good in obeying God every day?
- In what ways do you feel like you are struggling in obeying God every day?
- What are the greatest temptations students your age face?
- What is the greatest temptation that you face?
- Where do you feel like you face temptations the most—from friends, from TV, in your own thoughts, in your own attitude, etc?
- What can you do this week to help you keep obeying God every hour of every day (24/7)? *(This would be a great time to remind them what we learned in the past about God's Word being a guard for our hearts.)*

Prayer—Take prayer requests and pray with your students. Pray specifically that they will obey God every day.