



LESSON 3

THE FIERY FURNACE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is with Us in Hard Things

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 3

GOD'S BIG STORY: Three young Jewish men refuse to worship a gold statue, so they are thrown into a blazing furnace—an experience they survive with God's help.

WORD OF WONDER: God will never leave us. —from Hebrews 13:5b

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
 - Fiery Furnace Sensory Bin
 - Can You Sort It?
 - The Fiery Furnace Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: Hebrews 13:5b
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Stand Up
- LARGE GROUP
- Craft: Faith in the Fire
- Game: Freeze Dance



God With Us Preschool Spotify playlist



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is with Us in Hard Things

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 3

WORD OF WONDER: Hebrews 13:5b

Have you ever seen a runner in a distance race who is calmly and confidently running near the middle of the pack until the final two laps, when she suddenly pushes to the front and crosses the finish line first? It takes quiet confidence in your training to choose not to panic and push but to know that the work has been done. Then, when you trust in your race plan, the results will follow.

Read Daniel 3. I picture Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego with that same quiet confidence. They knew that to panic and bow to a statue would not be right before God. They knew who would hold the victory in the end. So, they stayed the course. They responded to the king that their God would deliver them. “But even if he does not” (Daniel 3:18, NIV), they would not bow down.

They were so confident God was with them—in the trial, and in the fire—that they were willing to stake their lives on it.

Do you have the quiet confidence that God is with you in difficult things? God didn’t stop the men from being thrown in the furnace; instead, He joined them in it. They may have felt the heat, but with their eyes fixed on God, they knew He was with them and would not let them perish.

—**Courtney Wilson**

Children’s Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were born in Judah with the Hebrew names of Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They were exiled to Babylon after Jerusalem was conquered. Along with Daniel, they were trained for three years to serve in the king's court.

WHAT?

King Nebuchadnezzar builds a gold statue and decrees that when musicians play special music, everyone has to stop and bow to the statue. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, now young officials in the king's court, refuse. So, the king throws them into a blazing furnace. However, they survive with God's help.

WHERE?

Babylon was the capital city of the Babylonian empire, a port city on the Euphrates River that grew to be one of the most populated cities in Mesopotamia. It is the site of the Hanging Gardens, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, in modern-day Iraq.

WHEN?

In 605 BC, after the Egyptians were unable to stop Nebuchadnezzar, the regions of Syria, Palestine, and Judah fell under Babylonian control. At this point, Daniel and his friends were taken as captives to Babylon. In 587, Judah rebelled but lost. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

In the blazing furnace story, God reveals His character as our Savior. This character is most fully revealed in Jesus, who saves us from our sin and invites us to live with God forever.



LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is with Us in Hard Things

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 3

WORD OF WONDER: Hebrews 13:5b

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: yellow, red, and orange tissue paper (2 sheets of each color); scissors (prep only); bin; toy people figures (4); blocks (3); coins (4); pom-poms (3); craft sticks (4); dry beans (3); colored beads (4); coloring utensils

RESOURCES: [The Fiery Furnace Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: Fiery Furnace Sensory Bin

Set-up: Cut the red, yellow, and orange tissue paper in 1" x 1" squares. Place them into the bin and hide the toy people for the kids to find.

Play: Let the kids play in the bin of tissue paper and find the hidden people. Once they find the figures, have them hide them again for more kids to find.

Play Station: Can You Sort It?

Set-up: On a table, set out the blocks, coins, pom-poms, craft sticks, dry beans, and colored beads. Mix them up so the kids can sort them into their specific item groups.

Allergy Caution: Be aware of any food allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

Play: Allow the kids to sort the objects into piles. Encourage the kids to count how many of each object is on the table. They should sort the objects into groups of three and four.

Play Station: The Fiery Furnace Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw something that is hard for them to do.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

God will never leave us.

—from Hebrews 13:5b

"Our Word of Wonder comes from Hebrews 13:5 and says, "God will never leave us." Can you say that with me? Repeat the verse and have the kids say it after you. Yes, God will never leave you, just like in God's big story when He was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as they faced hard things. They said no to the king's order to worship a pretend god even though it meant they would be thrown into a furnace! But God was with them, and He saved them. Now I'll ask you to do some hard things while we say our verse. Try your best to do these actions while saying the verse. Are you ready?"

Make sure the kids are spread out and have enough room. Invite the kids to do the following actions while saying the verse:

- five jumping jacks
- run in place for 10 seconds
- five jumps
- three ninja kicks

Those were some hard actions to do while saying our verse. When we go through hard things like being sick, getting hurt, or doing something we don't want to, God is with us!"

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD WILL**—Point up.
- **NEVER LEAVE US**.—Shake your head.
- **HEBREWS 13:5**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What does God promise us in this verse?**
- **When we go through hard things, what will God do?**

God's Big Story / Snack

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Daniel in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Daniel in the Bible."

Read pages 206–211 in the Laugh and Grow Bible.

***Leader Tip * Kids can color their Coloring Pages while you read to help with the wiggles!**

Circle Time: Stand Up

In this activity, you will call out some different descriptions. If one describes the kids, they will stand up. The first person to stand up will answer a question.

In our story today, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up for God. That means they chose to do what was right even when it was hard. Even when everyone else bowed down to a pretend god, they stood up and chose to only worship the one true God!

Let's play a game called Stand Up. I'm going to say different things that may or may not be something true about you, such as wearing blue. If you're wearing blue, you'll stand up. If you aren't wearing blue, you'll stay seated for that round. If you're the first one to stand, I'll ask you a question.

Have kids begin each round by sitting down. Read the statements below and allow the kids to stand up if the information is true of them. Invite the first child who stands to answer one of the Discussion Questions then begin another round.

- **Stand up if you have a pet.**
- **Stand up if you have a brother or sister.**
- **Stand up if you're wearing red.**
- **Stand up if you have brown hair.**
- **Stand up if you had cereal for breakfast.**
- **Stand if you like pizza.**
- **Stand up if you're** (*say the age of some of the kids in your room*) **years old.**
- **Stand up if you play a sport.**
- **Stand up if you're wearing blue.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What did the king want everyone to do?** (*bow down to the statue*)
- **Why didn't Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego bow down to the statue?**
(*They would only bow to God.*)
- **When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't worship the statue, what did the king do?**
(*He had them thrown into a fiery furnace.*)
- **What happened when the men were in the fiery furnace?** (*God saved them; a fourth person was seen walking around with them.*)
- **What is something hard that you've been through?**
- **How has God helped you?**
- **What can you remember about God the next time you go through something hard?**

You got to stand up in the game like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up for God. They stood up for God no matter what, even when they were the only ones! God is with us in hard things. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for being with them in hard things.

Head to Large Group!

When you return from LG, continue with these activities until parents arrive.

Craft: Faith in the Fire

SUPPLIES: red, yellow, and orange tissue paper (2 sheets of each color, cut into small squares or pieces); scissors (prep only); glue

RESOURCES: Faith in the Fire Sheet (1 per kid; print on back of Coloring Page)
Before the kids arrive, print one Faith in the Fire Sheet for each kid and cut the tissue paper into 1" x 1" squares. You'll need several squares of each color for every kid.

"Who remembers what happened once Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego went into the furnace? Allow kids to answer. That's right—God was with them and saved them from the fire. God is with us in hard things we may face.

We're going to make our own fiery furnaces to help us remember that God is with us in hard things. Everyone is going to get a paper, and we'll glue these pieces of tissue paper to our paper to make our fiery furnace." Give each kid a Faith in the Fire Sheet. Set out the tissue paper squares and glue, and allow kids to add the tissue paper to their pictures where the flames are on their papers. It may be easier for the kids to put glue from their glue sticks onto the paper (rather than the tissue paper squares) and stick the squares onto the paper.



Game: Freeze Dance

RESOURCES: upbeat songs from the [God with Us Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

"We're going to play a game called Freeze Dance! I'm going to play some music, and when the music stops, you freeze. Then you can shout out a praise to God like "Jesus loves me" or "God is with us" or "Thank You for my family."

Play upbeat songs from the [God with Us Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). Pause the music and encourage everyone to freeze. Each time you start the music again, be dramatic, pause, and then don't do it right away for some rounds. Encourage the kids to pay attention to the music.

Great job paying attention to when the music started and stopped! You paid attention just like the three men in our Bible story paid attention to God and not what the king wanted them to do. You shared some wonderful praises for God too. When hard things come, God is with us."