

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.

Activity: Walking Through the Fire

Activity: Build a Furnace

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Freeze Dance

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Walking Through the Fire

SUPPLIES: red, yellow, and orange streamers; scissors (prep only); large plastic hoops (2); tape (prep only)

Before the kids arrive, cut off strips of streamers and tape them to the outside of the large plastic hoops to make the “fire.” Kids will go through the hoops doing different actions in a relay race.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! Hold up both large plastic hoops. **We’re going to play a game to help us get curious about our story today! We’re going to pretend that these are fire rings, and you’ll get to do different things to go through them.** Go to the other end of the room with the large plastic hoop. Have another adult hold the other large plastic hoop a little bit in front of you so kids have to go through both hoops while doing the action. Some kids may need assistance getting through the large plastic hoops.

Have the kids run to the hoops and do one of the following actions each round:

- jump through the hoop
- crawl
- walk

Good job going through the fire and listening to directions! This reminds me of a story in the Bible that we’ll learn today. It’s about three men who walked through fire and how God saved them! Let’s find out more.

Keep the hoop with the streamers to use for God’s Big Story.

Activity: Build a Furnace

SUPPLIES: blocks

In God’s big story today, we’ll hear about some friends who had to go into a fiery furnace. A furnace is a big room that has a fire in it, kind of like a fireplace. Have you seen one of those? Can you help me make a big furnace? Allow kids to work together to create a big furnace or tower using the blocks. **Today we’re going to see how God is with us in hard things. Going into a fiery furnace like the one we built would be really hard, but God was with the men in our story!**

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD IS WITH US IN HARD THINGS.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD IS—Point up.

WITH US—Hold arms out wide and then hug yourself.

IN HARD THINGS.—Stomp your foot with each word.

Worship

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

Today we'll learn in God's big story how God is with us in hard things! Let's sing and thank God for how He is always with us!

Play songs from the [God with Us Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, "fiery furnace" hoop from the first activity

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Video](#)

God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about people named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Encourage the kids to say, "Shadrach," "Meshach," and "Abednego." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!**

Leader Tip: These names may be hard for preschoolers to say. Say them slowly and encourage the kids to repeat after you each time you say a syllable.

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible or use the script provided.

Place the large plastic hoop with streamers nearby to be the "fiery furnace" in this storytelling.

There was a king in Babylon named Nebuchadnezzar (Neh-buh-kuh-NEZ-er). King Nebuchadnezzar made a giant gold statue and told everyone to worship the new statue by bowing down when they heard special music play. Anyone who did not bow to the statue would be thrown into a blazing-hot furnace. Point to the fiery furnace nearby. **Soon the people heard the special music. It was time to worship the gold statue! Everyone started bowing down and worshipping the statue. Everyone, that is, except for Shadrach (SHAD-rack), Meshach (MEE-shack), and Abednego (Uh-BED-neh-go).** Invite the kids to shake their heads. **These three men loved God. They did not bow down to the statue because God had told His people never to worship anyone or anything besides God.**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were brave. "We might be thrown into the blazing furnace," they told the king. "But God can bring us out of it alive. But even if we knew that our God wouldn't save us, we still wouldn't worship the statue!" Invite the kids to shake their heads again.

The king was very mad and threw them into the furnace. Have the kids stand up and go into the furnace and move around in it. **When King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace, he was surprised! He did not see three men in the fire. He saw four! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were walking around in the fire, and the fire wasn't hurting them. They then came out of the furnace.** Have the kids walk out of the furnace. **Not a hair on their heads was burned. They didn't even smell like smoke! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego learned that God is with us in hard things.**

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. God, thank You for being with us in hard times. Help us remember that no matter what we go through, You are with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May the Lord show Himself to you this week when some hard things come your way. May you always remember that God is with you.

Activity: Freeze Dance

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: 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 have to freeze in place. Then you can shout out a praise to God such as "Jesus loves me" or "God is with me."

Play songs from the [God with Us Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). Pause the music periodically and encourage everyone to freeze.

Great job paying attention to when the music started and stopped! You listened just like the three men in our Bible story listened to God. You shared some wonderful praises for God too. When hard things come, God is with us.