



THE FIERY FURNACE

BIBLE PASSAGE (DANIEL 3)

Summary: When Babylon captured Israel, young men like Daniel and his friends were taken to serve the king. King Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue and commanded all to worship it or be thrown into a fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused, choosing to honor God. Even when given another chance, they stood firm. They were thrown into the furnace, but the king saw a fourth man with them, protecting them from harm.

Today's Brite Idea is: Only God is worthy of worship.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Great is the LORD, and
greatly to be praised.

(PSALM 145:3)



BIG QUESTION

Who is greater than everything? God!



God is awesome.



We can
worship Him.



I can
worship Him.

LEADER TRAINING: USE GENTLE AND IMMEDIATE GUIDANCE

Preschoolers often need help in the moment, not later. Immediate, gentle guidance teaches kids what to do instead of only pointing out what they did wrong. Correction becomes most effective when it is clear and timely, giving kids the chance to learn and practice the right behavior right away.

- **Act quickly and stay calm.** A gentle reminder, such as “Feet stay on the floor” or “Use gentle hands,” works best when misbehavior happens. Your calm presence communicates care and sets the stage for safety.
- **Guide kids as needed.** Gently showing a kid how to place a puzzle piece or carry a toy correctly helps them understand through action. Physical guidance combined with words reinforces learning and keeps kids engaged.
- **Reinforce with encouragement.** Pair any correction with positive phrases, such as “Let’s try that again together” or “I see you are working hard to listen.”
- **Reflect God’s patience.** Immediate guidance models grace, teaches kids how to respond to correction and shows them how love can guide behavior.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: PERSECUTION

More than 360 million Christians experience significant persecution in their home countries, including facing kidnapping, jail and even loss of life.* Just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, believers around the world risk their lives by following the one true God. Some kids in your group may have experienced teasing for going to church or being put down for asking questions about God. In today’s lesson, kids will see that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stayed true to their faith even when it made life much harder for them. You can help kids see that God uses persecution to point others toward Him. Around the world, the church is growing in countries of persecution. Lead the kids in your group to pray for those around the world who are choosing to follow God even when it’s not easy.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Golden statue: an item people use for worship

Honor: to show respect

Worship: celebrating God for who He is

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

1

BELONG

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

THE KING SAYS

SUPPLIES: None

OR

HOT OR COLD?

SUPPLIES:

Cardstock (5 red, 5 orange, 5 yellow), scissors (prep), tape (optional)

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (20 MINUTES)

THE FIERY FURNACE

(DANIEL 3)

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

GLOWING PRAISE

SUPPLIES: Glowsticks (1-2 per kid), music player, Memory Verse Song

OR

GOD IS AWESOME

SUPPLIES: Painter's tape

4

BECOME

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

GOAL: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

LET'S WORSHIP GOD!

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, craft stick (1 per kid), ribbon (red, orange, yellow), tape, scissors (prep), music player, upbeat kids' worship song

OR

WORSHIPING GOD

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, parachute



THE KING SAYS

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Consider your group's needs when calling out motions. Modify as needed so everyone is included.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name?

Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to stand and face you.*
2. **Say:** Let's play a listening game! When I say, "The king says," do the motion I call out. If I do not say "The king says," freeze like a statue!
3. *Call out the motions below, saying "The king says" every few motions.*
4. **Motions to call out:**
 - Stretch arms up high
 - Hop
 - Spin around
 - Jump three times
 - Freeze
 - Tap your head
 - Nod your head yes
 - Shake your head no
 - Close your eyes
 - Make prayer hands
5. **Ask:** What was your favorite motion to do?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Great job playing "The King Says"! That was a fun way to move our bodies and play together. Today we will hear a story about a king who told people to do something, but what he told the people to do was wrong! Let's get ready for our lesson and find out what the king told people to do.



HOT OR COLD?

SUPPLIES:

Cardstock (5 red, 5 orange, 5 yellow), scissors (prep), tape (optional)

PREP:

Cut flame shapes out of the cardstock. Hide them around your space.

LEADER TIP: If your space is limited, hide flames on walls, on furniture and under chairs instead of spreading them out.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Let kids who need more movement hide the flames for the group. They can also be buddies for kids who need physical assistance when searching.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** We will look for hidden flames! If you get close, I will say, "Hot!" If you move farther away, I will say, "Cold!" Let's see how many flames we can find!
2. *Pick one kid to go first or send a few kids at a time.*
3. *Let kids search the space while you give hot/cold clues.*
4. *Celebrate each time a kid finds a flame and encourage kids to help each other.*
5. **Ask:** Was it easier when I said "Hot" or "Cold"?
6. **Ask:** Did you like finding the flames?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You did an amazing job finding the flames! That was a great way to work together. Now we are ready for our lesson today. Let's pay close attention to see why there are hot flames in today's Bible story.

INTRO:

Play the Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching time.

WELCOME:

Say: Hello! I am so happy to be with each of you and learn a true story from the Bible together.

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

Say: We learned about a man named Elijah who prayed on a mountain for God to show He is real. God answered by sending down fire from the sky!

Show teaching image: Fire Falls.

Say: We also learned that God loved Jonah and the people of Nineveh even though they made wrong choices.

Show teaching image: Jonah Swallowed by the Fish.

Say: Last week we learned about a special dream Isaiah had that showed him how great and perfect God is.

Show teaching image: God's Throne.

Say: Today we will learn a true story from the Bible about three friends who loved God and chose to worship Him, even when it was really hard.



BIG QUESTION

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? 1, 2, 3... drumroll!

Show Big Question Teaching Image.



PLAY FIND IT IN THE *Bible Song*

Say: Who is greater than everything? We will find out in today's Bible story!

Play the "Find It in the Bible" song.

Hold up a Bible.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? *Allow kids to respond.*

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the Old Testament in the book of Daniel. The Old Testament is filled with lots of stories about God's creation, His people and the things that happened before Jesus came to Earth.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Be as expressive as you can when leading the kids to shout, "Oh no!" and "Woohoo!"

THE FIERY FURNACE

(DANIEL 3)

Say: God's people were attacked by enemies! Everyone shout, "Oh no!"

Have kids shout, "Oh no!"

Say: Isaiah the prophet had warned the people that this would happen because of their disobedience. Some were even taken away from their homes. Three friends were among those taken. Everyone shout, "Oh no!"

Have kids shout, "Oh no!"

Say: The friends were given new names—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—and moved to a new, strange place to live called Babylon. Living in a new place was really hard, but the friends continued to follow God and God helped them! Everyone shout, "Woohoo!"

Have kids shout, "Woohoo!"

Say: One day, the king in the new land built a giant **golden statue** that was 90 feet tall. That's as tall as nine school buses stacked up to the sky! He ordered that everyone must bow down and **worship** the tall statue every time they heard music. Anyone who didn't bow would be thrown into a really hot furnace full of fire as punishment. Everyone shout, "Oh no!"

Have kids shout, "Oh no!"

Say: The music played and everyone bowed down except Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They wouldn't **worship** a statue! They would only **worship** the one true God! Everyone shout, "Woohoo!"

Have kids shout, "Woohoo!"

Show teaching image: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Say: The King heard about this and got really mad. Everyone shout, "Oh no!"

Have kids shout, "Oh no!"

Say: The king said, "Is it true that you won't **worship** my statue? You're going to get thrown into the blazing hot furnace! What god will save you then?" Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered, "King, even if you throw us in the furnace, our God can save us. But even if He doesn't, we won't **worship** anything or anyone else." Everyone shout, "Woohoo!"

Have kids shout, "Woohoo!"

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Golden statue: an item people use for worship

Honor: to show respect

Worship: celebrating God for who He is



Say: The king got even angrier! He ordered the furnace made much hotter! Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were tied up and thrown in. Everyone shout, "Oh no!"

Have kids shout, "Oh no!"

Say: After a little time, the king checked on them. "Didn't we throw three men in there?" he said. "Now I see four in the flames!"

Show teaching image: Fourth Man in the Fire.

Say: The king said, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, come out!" Everyone shout, "Woohoo!"

Have kids shout, "Woohoo!"

Say: When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the furnace, they weren't hurt. They didn't even smell like smoke! God was with them in the fire. He had rescued them. Everyone shout, "Woohoo!"

Have kids shout, "Woohoo!"

Say: King Nebuchadnezzar praised God and made a new law that no one could speak badly of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's God. Nebuchadnezzar declared that no one could rescue like the one true God.

Show teaching image: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: Just like God came to help in the fire, Jesus came to Earth to help us. Everyone needs Jesus' help because we have all sinned and need to be forgiven. Jesus helps by forgiving all who choose to follow Him.

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: God, it is amazing that You saved the three friends! You were with them and protected them. Help us to worship only You, no matter what! Amen.



BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll?
1, 2, 3... drumroll!

Show the Big Question and Answer Teaching Image.

Say: Who is greater than everything? God!

Say: That's right! The Bible teaches that God is bigger and stronger and greater than anyone or anything!



VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse
Motion Video after the
verse is read.*

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- Great (make a V with your arms)
- is the LORD, (point to the sky)
- and greatly (bring arms in and extend out to one side)
- to be praised. (bring arms in and extend out to the other side)
- Psalm 145:3 (open hands like a book)



MONTHLY

Memory Verse

*Great is the LORD, and
greatly to be praised.*

(PSALM 145:3)



REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "God is awesome."

Have the kids point up and say, "God is awesome."

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "We can worship Him."

Have kids reach out and say, "We can worship Him."

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "I can worship Him."

Have kids point to themselves and say, "I can worship Him."



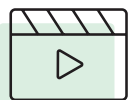
God is awesome.



We can worship Him.



I can worship Him.



* Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.



GLOWING PRAISE

SUPPLIES:

Glowsticks (1-2 per kid), music player,
Memory Verse Song

PREP:

Activate glowsticks before the activity begins.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that God is awesome!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Let's wave our glowsticks while we listen to our Memory Verse Song. Follow my motions as we worship God together!
2. *Give each kid a glowstick.*
3. *Play the Memory Verse Song.*
4. *Show simple motions: wave glow stick high, circle it, march with it or make gentle zig-zags, etc.*
5. *Repeat the song, inviting kids to choose their own motions the second time.*
6. **Ask:** How can you praise God this week?
7. **Ask:** When can you talk to God?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

That was wonderful worship! Our memory verse tells us that God is great and worthy to be praised. God is awesome!



GOD IS AWESOME

SUPPLIES:

Painter's tape

PREP:

Use the painter's tape and tape large X-marks on the floor (1 per kid).

LEADER TIP: Use floor markers instead of painter's tape if you have them!

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that God is awesome!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** We will walk around. When I say, "Who is awesome?" you will jump onto an X-mark! Then lead kids to say, "God is awesome!"
2. **Ask:** Why is God awesome?
3. **Say:** God is awesome because He is great. He made a way for our sins to be forgiven by sending Jesus to die on the cross. God is good and loving, and He is always in control. God is awesome because He is God!
4. *Have kids walk or march around your space.*
5. *Call out "Who is awesome?" and have kids find an X-mark and jump on it. Lead them to say, "God is awesome!"*
6. *Repeat several rounds.*
7. **Ask:** What makes God awesome?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God is awesome, and He is always with us. We can trust in Him!



LET'S WORSHIP GOD!

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, craft stick (1 per kid), ribbon (red, orange, yellow), tape, scissors (prep), music player, upbeat kids' worship song

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page on cardstock and cut out (1 star per kid). Cut the ribbon into 10-inch pieces (4 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we learned how important it is to worship God. Worship is celebrating God for who He is. We can worship God through singing, clapping our hands and praising Him.
2. **Say:** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego each chose not to worship the statue. Instead, they chose to only worship the one true God.
3. **Say:** Let's make worship ribbons!
4. *Pass out a precut star and coloring supplies. Lead kids to color in the star.*
5. *Then pass out a craft stick and four precut ribbons.*
6. *Use tape to help kids affix the star to the top of their craft stick, then tape the ribbons to the back of the craft stick.*
7. **Say:** We can worship God anywhere and know that God is always with us.
8. *Play worship music and lead kids in worshiping with their new worship ribbon.*
9. *Write each kid's name on their paper/craft and set aside for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who is always with you?
- Where can you worship God?
- What is one thing you can thank God for?
- How can you show God you love Him?



PRAY TOGETHER:

God, thank You for being with us. Help us worship You every day. Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.



WORSHIPING GOD

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, parachute

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

LEADER TIP: If you don't have a parachute, use a tablecloth or bedsheet instead.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Some kids might get overstimulated by the parachute movements. Give them a scarf that they can wave alongside the group.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lay out the parachute on the ground.*
2. **Say:** We will all work together to lift up the parachute and bring it back down as we remember that we can worship God!
3. *Have kids stand around the parachute and grab the edge of it.*
4. *Lead kids to shake the parachute, lift it up and down, move it fast to create waves. Call out colors for kids to swap sides if the parachute is multi-colored.*
5. *As kids do the different movements, lead them in saying, "We can worship God!"*
6. *Repeat this phrase several times. Lead them to say it fast, slowly and in a silly voice.*
7. **Ask:** How do you like to worship God?
8. *Lead kids to lay the parachute down and have them sit on top of it to do the discussion questions.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What did the king say to worship at first?
- Whom did the three friends choose to follow?
- What are some ways you can worship God?
- Why do we worship God?



PRAY TOGETHER:

God, You are so great. Help us to follow You and worship You every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

CENTERS:

Set up 3–4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions on what kids should do in each center.

- **Block Center:** Set out wooden blocks or foam blocks. Kids can build towers, cities or statues as they imagine they are in Babylon.
- **Drawing Center:** Set out coloring supplies and white cardstock. Encourage kids to draw what they remember from the story (e.g., flames, friends, hearts praising God, etc.).
- **Modeling Dough Center:** Set out red, orange and yellow modeling dough. Lead kids to make something from today's Bible story. Ask them what their favorite part of the Bible story was.

BONUS SCRIPT:

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time or while waiting for parents.

Say: Three friends named Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would only worship the one true God. The king wanted everyone to bow down to a big golden statue, but the friends loved God and would only worship Him. The king threw them into a fiery furnace, but God was with them and kept them safe! The king even saw a fourth person in the fire. God rescued the friends and they came out unharmed. God is powerful, and He protects us. Only God is worthy of worship.



BIG QUESTION

Who is greater than everything? God!