



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

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BELONG

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

CLAP YOUR HANDS!

SUPPLIES: None

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (15 MINUTES)

**THE FIERY FURNACE
(DANIEL 3)**

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible story cards

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

**MEMORY
VERSE HOT
POTATO**

SUPPLIES: Music player, Memory Verse Song, beanbag

4

BECOME

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

**WORSHIP
SHAKER**

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, plastic egg (1 per kid), uncooked rice (2 tablespoons per kid), tape, stickers (4 per kid), marker



CLAP YOUR HANDS!

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Have a list of kids' names for easy reference. Practice the song ahead of time.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome everyone! My name is _____. *Greet each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to sit in a circle.*
2. **Say:** Raise your hand if you love to sing! Today we will sing a welcome song as we welcome all our friends!
3. **Say:** When I say your name, clap your hands. Let's all practice clapping together first. Ready? Clap your hands! Demonstrate for kids.
4. *Sing to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It"*
 (Kid's name) is happy, clap your hands.
 (Kid's name) is happy, clap your hands!
 (Kid's name) is happy and they really want to show it.
 (Kid's name) is happy, clap your hands.
5. *Repeat with each kid's name in your group.*
6. *Add in other movements such as "stomp your feet," "wave hello," etc.*
7. **Ask:** Who is happy to be here today?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

I'm so happy you are here today! We will learn about three friends in our Bible story. A king was not happy when the three friends would not worship a statue. They would only worship God. Let's find out what happens.

THE FIERY FURNACE

(DANIEL 3)

Use the Bible story cards to teach the Bible story or read the script to the kids.



Say: Today's story is about three friends. They were given interesting names—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Can you try to say those names? Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! Let's hold up three fingers for these three friends. The three friends had to live far from home, but God helped them!

Say: One day, the king in the new land built a big **golden statue**. Can you reach your hands up really high? He ordered that everyone must bow down and **worship** the statue every time they heard music. Anyone who didn't bow down would be thrown into a really hot, fiery place.

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! The King heard about this and got really, really mad. Can you make a mad face?

Say: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego told the king they would only **worship** God. The king got even angrier! He ordered his men to make the furnace much hotter! Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were tied up and thrown in. The king looked inside. "Didn't we throw three men in there?" he said. "Now I see four!"

Say: The king said, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, come out!" Everyone shout, "Come out!" When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the furnace, they weren't hurt. They didn't even smell like smoke!



POINT TO JESUS

Say: God was with them in the fire, and He rescued them. Everyone needs Jesus' help because we have all sinned and need to be forgiven.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Golden statue: an item people use for worship

Honor: to show respect

Worship: celebrating God for who He is

WRAP-UP:



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.

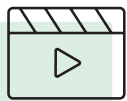
Say: Who is greater than everything? God!



God is awesome.

We can
worship Him.

I can
worship Him.



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)



MEMORY VERSE HOT POTATO

SUPPLIES:

Music player, Memory Verse Song, beanbag

PREP:

None

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned God is awesome and we can worship Him. Three friends would not worship anything or anyone else but God.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to sit in a circle.*
2. **Say:** Let's practice our memory verse by listening to our Memory Verse Song. As the song plays, we will pass this beanbag around the circle. When the song stops, whoever is holding it will lead us in saying our verse.
3. **Say:** Our memory verse is, *Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised. (Psalm 145:3)*
4. *Play and pause the Memory Verse Song as kids pass the beanbag around the circle. When the music pauses, help whoever is holding the beanbag lead the group in saying the verse.*
5. *Repeat as time allows.*
6. *Challenge kids to pass the beanbag as fast as they can!*
7. **Ask:** Whom does our verse say is great?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

God is so great, and we can praise Him! We learned today how three friends would only praise and worship God. They knew worshiping God was most important.



WORSHIP SHAKER

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, plastic egg (1 per kid), uncooked rice (2 tablespoons per kid), tape, stickers (4 per kid), marker

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Fill each plastic egg with rice and seal shut with tape (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Say:** We can worship God. What are ways that we can worship Him? One way we can worship God is by using our voices and by singing, dancing and clapping our hands.
- Say:** Today we will make a shaker that we can use to worship God. We can worship God when we are happy, sad or even when we're mad. We can worship God each day and know that He deserves our praise!
- Pass out the prefilled and taped eggs. Then pass out the stickers. Help kids decorate their egg shakers.*
- Lead kids to shake their shaker as they praise God. Lead them to shake their shaker fast, slow, up high and down low.*
- Use the marker to write each kid's name on their craft and set aside for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What did the king want everyone to do?
- Did the three friends worship the statue?
- Whom did the three friends worship?
- Whom can we worship?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, You are so awesome! Help us to praise You each 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.

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.

- **Movement Center:** Provide scarves for kids to dance and twirl around with. Share how they can worship God.
- **Friendship:** Provide paper and coloring supplies. Encourage kids to draw a picture of a friend. Share how they can tell them about God and today's Bible story.
- **Building Center:** Provide building blocks or cups. Encourage kids to build a big statue and then knock it down. Share how God is the one true God to be worshiped.

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!