

LESSON 73

Four Men in the Furnace

DANIEL 3



BIBLE TRUTH

OUR GOD IS ABLE TO DELIVER US

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 73)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 73

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

The Fiery Furnace Skit

What about Our Idols?

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn about how God can save anyone who places their trust in him.

Stand in front of the class, and play the following game:

The class should do everything that you preface with the word “Bible” but not do anything you preface with the word “idol.” (The game works like Simon Says. The following is just an example. Feel free to make up your own commands. In the end, talk to the children about only following God, not idols.)

Bible says, follow God. (March in place to demonstrate following God.)

Bible says, worship. (Lift your hands to demonstrate worship.)

Bible says, rest. (Stop marching, close eyes, and tip head to side to signify rest.)

Idol says, worship. (See how many children you can catch lifting their hands. You can lift your own hands to try and fool some of the children.)

Bible says, worship. (Lift your hands to demonstrate worship.)

Idol says, follow me. (See how many children you can catch marching in place. March in place yourself to try to fool them.)

Tell the class that your Bible story today is about a king who tried to force some of God’s people to worship an idol.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 73, “Four Men in the Furnace,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What did the king want all the people to do?
(*The king wanted all the people to bow down to an image of gold.*)

- Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow down?
(They worshiped the one true God, and they would not bow down to a false god.)
- How did the king say they would be punished if they refused to obey?
(They would be thrown into a fiery furnace.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- What is a furnace, and what is it normally used for?
(A furnace is a metal box in which a fire is built. A furnace has many uses; for example, it can be used to heat homes or to melt iron for making swords or to burn trash.)
- How do we know the furnace was really hot?
(The soldiers who came near it were killed by the heat.)

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Hebrews 11:34

In the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, there is an obvious answer to "Where is Jesus?" The Son of God was with them in the fire as the fourth person. Just as God was willing to come down to earth to save them from the fire, so Jesus was willing to come down to earth as a man to save us from our sins. God delivers these men from the flames so that not even their clothing is singed!

Though not mentioned by name in Hebrews 11:34, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego certainly "quenched the power of fire." These three men are a part of the "great cloud of witnesses" that the book of Hebrews says should motivate us to look to Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2).

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 73—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What do you notice about the men in the fire?**
(They are not being harmed by the flames. Also, there are four men in the fire, but only three were thrown in.)
- **Who was the fourth person inside the furnace?**
(an angel of the Lord, Jesus)
- **What did the king and his officials notice about the three men after they came out of the furnace?**
(Not a single hair was burned, nor did they even smell like smoke.)
- **What happened to the king’s attitude after he saw the three men were not harmed?**
(The king praised the Lord and admitted, “There is no other god who is able to rescue in this way” [Daniel 3:29].)

The Fiery Furnace Skit

This is a wonderful story to have the kids act out because there are a lot of simple parts: the king, the soldiers, the officials, and the angel of the Lord. Assign the parts and read through the story having the children act out the sequence of events as you read. After you finish the skit, ask the children to tell you what we learn about God from this story.

- No other god can save! (These were the words of the king himself!)
- God is all-powerful
- God is faithful
- No king can thwart God’s plan

What about Our Idols?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to the idol created in their day. An idol can be anything that takes the place of God in our life.

See if the children can guess some of the idols that people might struggle with today. Explain to them that an idol can be anything we love more than God; for example, playing video games instead of working, wanting to go outside and play instead of doing our chores, wanting to win so bad we cheat, etc.

What would it look like to bow down to these? We would not likely get on our knees and worship them, but we might be willing to sin to get them, which is the same thing.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

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