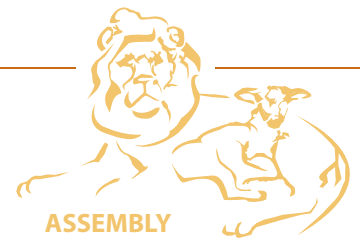


FOUR MEN IN THE FURNACE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: DANIEL 3



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

THE FIERY FURNACE

Supplies:

- red or orange construction paper,
- tape to mark out a furnace on the floor

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. Read through the story and have the children with assigned parts 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? Draw out the answers below.

- 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

THE SMELL OF SMOKE

Supplies:

- a piece of charred wood in a closed container or a smoky piece of clothing in an enclosed container

When you tell the story and get to the part where it says that there was no smell of fire on them, pass the container around for the children to smell. Explain to the class that a person just standing by a fire would have the foul smell of smoke on their clothes. In this case, God didn't just save them part of the way, but all of the way!

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 what some of the idols are that folks might struggle with today. Explain to them that an idol can be anything we love more than we love God or something that we are devoted to with our affections. Some examples: Getting to play video games, wanting control over our brothers and sisters, a sports team, etc.

FOUR MEN IN THE FURNACE

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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.

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. Showing us a glimpse of a greater deliverance, that would save us all believers from the fires of hell, God delivers these men from the flames so that not even their clothing is singed!

Hebrews 11:34 says by faith people "quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens."

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

