



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God is always by our side, no matter what!

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God is with us no matter what we may go through.

KEY PASSAGE:

Daniel 3:7-29, The Fiery Furnace

MEMORY VERSE:

"His signs are great. His wonders are mighty. His kingdom will last forever. His rule will never end." Daniel 4:3 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

There are many tricks at the circus that use fire. But fire is very dangerous and not something to be played with. Only highly trained professionals can try some of these dangerous stunts. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego didn't have any training or skills when they were thrown into the fiery furnace. They had simply decided ahead of time to trust God no matter what happened or what people said, and God was with them, protecting them even in the midst of a raging fire.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for always being by our side.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



MEMORY VERSE

“How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.” Daniel 4:3 (NIV)

“His signs are great. His wonders are mighty. His kingdom will last forever. His rule will never end.” Daniel 4:3 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Write each word of the verse on a poster board. Bring enough kids on stage so each kid can hold one of the words. Then have the kids unscramble the words and put them in order on stage so it can be read by the audience.

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids sing the verse like an opera singer.



SKIT

MEET THE FIRE WALKER

ITEMS NEEDED:

A ringmaster's costume for Adam

A Biblical costume for Meshach

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2 M

CHARACTERS:

Adam - A circus ringmaster

Meshach - A man who once walked out of a fiery furnace

Adam enters and takes center stage.

ADAM: Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, gather 'round, and step right up! The Bible Circus is back to astound you with feats and sights, strange and rare! Step right up and be the first to see what God has done for these amazing people. How amazing? What if I told you the Bible Circus had not one, not two, but three fire eaters? Men who laugh in the face of fire! Men who eat fire for breakfast! Please welcome one of the three fire eaters of the Bible... Meshach!

Meshach enters.

ADAM: Meshach, it is a pleasure to have you.

MESHACH: It's a pleasure to be here, believe me!

ADAM: Can I get you a snack? A Hot Pocket, or some burning coals?

MESHACH: No, thank you! No more hot stuff for me. I've had enough of that.

ADAM: Really? I would think you enjoy eating fire.

MESHACH: Eating fire? I've never tried to eat fire in my life. But I have walked through it.

SKIT

ADAM: Wait a minute, did you say you walked through fire?

MESHACH: Yes, sir.

ADAM: As in, walked through a flaming hoop?

MESHACH: Not through a flaming hoop. Through actual fire.

ADAM: As in, walking over burning coals on the ground?

MESHACH: No, not burning coals on the ground. Although there were plenty of those. No, my buddies and I walked through huge, leaping, burning, scalding flames, high enough to kill any man who even got close to the fire!

ADAM: That sounds like a raging inferno!

MESHACH: Now you got it.

ADAM: Why in the world would anyone walk through a fire like that?

MESHACH: We didn't have much choice, really. The king said if we didn't bow down to his false idol, we would be tossed into the fiery furnace. Shadrach, Abednego, and I were not about to worship any false gods, so we were tossed into the flames.

ADAM: How in the world did you survive?

MESHACH: We didn't go in alone! God was with us, and He kept the fire from burning us.

ADAM: That's incredible! That's way more amazing than eating fire.

MESHACH: Eating fire is a carnival trick. This was real men in a real fire who were saved by a real God that loves us. It was nothing short of a miracle.

ADAM: What a story, ladies and gentlemen! The man who walked through fire, and lived! I don't suppose you could do it for us again, could you?

MESHACH: Not a chance in the world!

ADAM: Well you can't blame a guy for asking. Join us again next week for another incredible act at the Bible Circus!



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Light bulb

Do you guys have any idea how much this invention changed the world? When Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, he not only made life easier for the masses, he made it safer. Prior to electric lighting, homes and businesses were lit by fire light – candles on the wall and desk, and fire in the fireplace. Those open flames warmed homes and light the night, but they also made the risk of fire an ever-present danger. Swapping out candlelight for electric lights made every home safer, and let everyone sleep easier.

Fire is nothing to play around with. It is useful, but it is also dangerous. The deadly nature of fire makes today's story all the more amazing. Three men were willing to be tossed into the hottest of fires because they refused to bow to a false god. God honored their faith, and he protected them in the flames.

We will all have times when our faith is tested, but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's story reminds us that God will always be there. Even when we are surrounded on all sides by trouble, God will be by our side, not outside the fire, but beside us in the midst of it all. Let's thank God for His faithfulness and ask for His protection as we prepare to spend another week living our lives for Him.



LARGE GROUP GAME

TOPPLE THE TOWER

ITEMS NEEDED:

Ten Solo cups
Two tennis balls

INSTRUCTIONS:

Stack the Solo cups up on a small table in a pyramid.

Choose two players for this game. Each player will get two tosses to try and knock down the cups. The player who knocks over the most cups wins.

VARIATION:

You can vary the number of cups used, or the number of tosses each player receives, depending on materials available and the age of the kids.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

The tower reminds us of the statue Nebuchadnezzar built. Knock it down, remembering that we are only to bow to the one true God.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

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OBJECTIVE:

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KEY PASSAGE:

Daniel 3:7-29, The Fiery Furnace

INTRO:

How many of you have ever seen a fire eater in person? Fire eating is one of the oldest and most impressive of carnival acts, and it's just as dangerous as it looks. Contrary to urban legend, the men and women who "eat" fire are not eating cold flames. Such a thing simply doesn't exist. Fire eaters are putting real, hot fire at the end of blazing hot torches in their mouths.

There's a simple trick to the act of fire eating, but we're not going to reveal that trick here. For one thing, we don't want anyone trying something so dangerous at home. And for another, that's not the point of this lesson. Fire is dangerous. Even if it's just a tiny flicker on a birthday candle, fire can and will hurt you.

The dangerous, unpredictable nature of fire has made it a staple for circus acts. There are fire eaters, fire jugglers, and people who jump through flaming hoops on motorcycles. There are even people who set themselves on fire and jump into tanks of water. Sure, it's a big thrill, and it's an incredible grand finale, but whenever fire is used, you can bet there are trained safety experts on hand, ready to move in if something goes wrong.

One of the most incredible stories in the Bible is the story of three men who were tossed into a fiery furnace. These men were true followers of God. They were captives in the kingdom of Babylon and trusted advisors to the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. One day the king unveiled a giant statue, and he ordered all the people under his rule to bow down and worship the idol or be cast into a blazing inferno.

If you think eating fire is impressive, wait until you hear this story!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ DANIEL 3:7-29

MAIN POINT:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego should have died before they even crossed over into the fiery furnace. The book of Daniel tells us the fire in this furnace was so hot, the men who led Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to the entry way were killed just from standing too close to the fire. I can only imagine the look on King Nebuchadnezzar's face as he gazed into the flames and saw not three but FOUR men walking around.

Some people say the fourth man was an angel. Some think it might have been Jesus. We may never know the identity of the fourth man, but we know for certain he was sent from above to save God's servants. God blessed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego for their faithfulness, and He was faithful to them in return. By saving the three men from death in the fiery furnace, God not only proved that He is the one true God, He showed the world that He will always stand by His faithful ones, no matter where they go.

DRIVE IT HOME:

There are many reasons to praise God in this amazing story. We can praise God for protecting the three men who remained faithful to him. We can praise Him for showing an unbelieving king that He is the one true God. The one thing we want to thank God for most of all is that there were four men inside the fiery furnace and not three.

Whether it was an angel, Jesus, or God the Father Himself does not matter. King Nebuchadnezzar saw FOUR men inside the fire. It's a visible reminder that when we face hard times and trouble, we are never alone.

None of us is very likely to find ourselves inside a fiery furnace, we all have times we feel trapped, or abandoned, or alone. We all go through hard times at home and at school, and we wonder if anyone cares. Parents are too busy to stop and ask what's bothering us. Friends have left us behind because we won't abandon our faith to do the wrong thing. Illness, loss, trouble at home. All these things can make us feel like there's no one around us.

God is always with you. He is right by your side in good times and bad. Just as God stood in the fiery furnace with His faithful servants, God will stand by your side in the loneliest of hours and the darkest of times.

I don't know what hardships or struggles you may have brought with you to church today, but I know God is with you. He was by your side when you woke this morning, when you rode to church, and He is right here with us now. God will be with you when you leave today, and He will be by your side all week. He is always watching, always listening, and if you call His name, He will answer your prayers.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

God stood with three brave men who would rather be tossed into a fiery furnace than praise a false god. That same God will always be by your side, and He wants a personal relationship with you. Praise God for His presence, and praise Him for His amazing love!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for always being by our side.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever had a campfire or bonfire with your family?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Daniel 4:3

Have the kids sing the verse like an opera singer.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Pass around a set of juggling balls, and give each person a chance to try juggling. But please, stick to the juggling balls, and no juggling fire.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Daniel 3:7-29

What law did King Nebuchadnezzar make when he built the statue?

Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow to the statue?

What happened when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown in the fiery furnace?

How many people did the king see inside the fiery furnace?

Will God always be with us no matter what?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Let us know you are by our side when we feel alone or in trouble.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever had a campfire or bonfire with your family?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Daniel 4:3

Have the kids sing the verse like an opera singer.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Pass around a set of juggling balls, and give each person a chance to try juggling. But please, stick to the juggling balls, and no juggling fire.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Daniel 3:7-29

Why were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown in the fiery furnace?

How did God protect Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

Who do you think the fourth person was inside the fiery furnace?

How do we know God will always be with us no matter what?

What should we do when we feel alone, scared, or in danger?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Let us know you are by our side when we feel alone or in trouble.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Nebuchadnezzar was the king of _____.

BABYLON

Nebuchadnezzar ordered his people to bow down and worship a giant _____.

STATUE

_____, Meshach, and Abednego disobeyed the king's command.

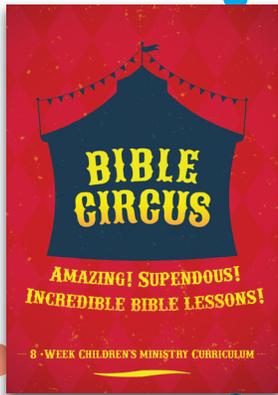
SHADRACH

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a _____.

FIERY FURNACE

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not die because _____ was with them in the flames.

GOD



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Bible Circus Lesson 5

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: FIRE EATERS



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

There are many tricks at the circus that use fire. But fire is very dangerous and not something to be played with. Only highly trained professionals can try some of these dangerous stunts. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego didn't have any training or skills when they were thrown into the fiery furnace. They had simply decided ahead of time to trust God no matter what happened or what people said, and God was with them, protecting them even in the midst of a raging fire. Daniel 3:7-29, The Fiery Furnace



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Talk with your kids about how they can reach you when you are not at home or they are at school or a friend's house. Do they know their address? Your cell number? Then ask them how they can call on God when they need Him.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they disobeyed the king?
- How did God save Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
- Do you believe God is always with you, no matter what?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"His signs are great. His wonders are mighty. His kingdom will last forever. His rule will never end." Daniel 4:3 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

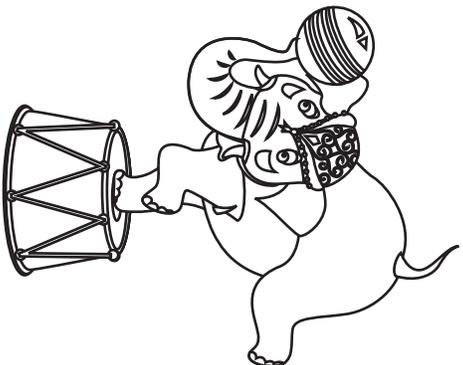
What you need to know:

No matter what happens, no matter where we are, God is always with us. He is always by our side. Pray that your kids will remember this lesson and always trust God to be with them.

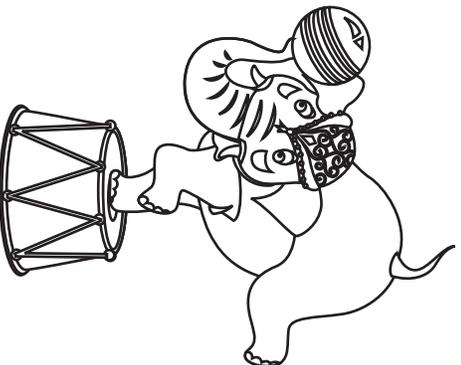


CRAFT ACTIVITY

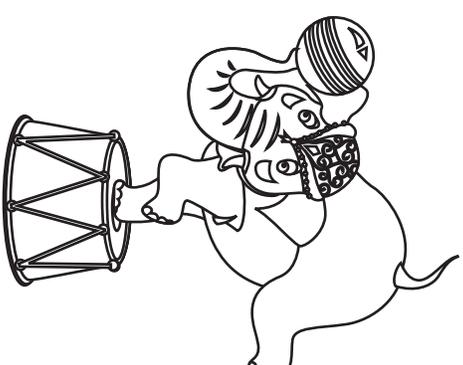
Give each kid three sheets of construction paper - a red one, a yellow one, and a black one. Cut the shapes of four men out of the black paper and glue them on to the red. Then cut out the shape of fire and flames from the yellow and glue them onto the red paper. The black figures are the shadows of the four people Nebuchadnezzar saw in the fiery furnace.



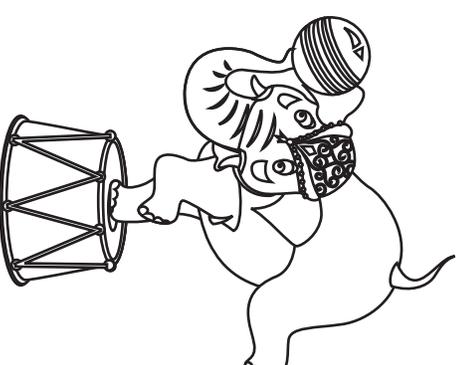
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