



Lesson
28

2s & 3s

THE FURNACE OF FIRE

March 7 & 8

GOD IS WITH US



LESSON GOAL:

Background: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down to the golden statue, as commanded by King Nebuchadnezzar, because they knew God was the one true God and worshiped Him only. King Nebuchadnezzar was angry and threw them into the furnace. But the three men knew God would be with them and would save them. In fact, the king and his advisers saw four men walking around in the fire and they knew God was with them. King Nebuchadnezzar realized God was the one true God and He had kept them safe.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand God is with us and He wants us to trust Him even when it's hard or scary. Just like God was with the three men in the fire, God is with us no matter what we face.

Daniel 3



KEY VERSE:

"Lord and King, how great you are!
There isn't anyone like you. There isn't
any God but you."

2 Samuel 7:22, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

FEEDING FAMILIES

You can make a difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout El Paso County by bringing non-perishable food items to your campus.

Your non-perishable donations help Woodmen's ACTs team provide weekly food bags to over 300 local families at our partner schools. Donations are needed year-round.

**Let's see if we can fill the
Feeding Family bins!**



5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in time is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome by creating a welcoming environment.



WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!

DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.



FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.

DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



MAKE: Furnace of Fire Craft

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: precut paper bag, fire cutout, people cutout, popsicle stick, God statement sticker, glue, markers/crayons



DO:

Pass out one paper bag, one fire paper and one person cutout to each child. Have them color the person cutout and glue it to the popsicle stick. Have them glue the fire to the front of the paper bag and add the God statement sticker to the craft.



SAY:

God is with us! Today we get to learn how God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He protected them in a fire and was with them. Let's make our own furnace of fire to remind us of this lesson.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by discussing the Big 3 questions.



SAY:

Answer THE BIG 3 questions to help kids prepare for the lesson

1. Who is our story about today?

God, King Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

2. What is the problem?

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down to the king's statue, so he threw them in a big fire.

3. What will God do?

The three men trusted God was bigger than any punishment the king gave, and God was with and protected the three guys in the fire.



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask students to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.



SAY:

Let's all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."



Craft Example



6:25-6:40pm
9:25-9:40am
11:25-11:40am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God through Worship, an engaging Bible story and a time of response.



EXPECTATIONS

As you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video ([Plex > Videos > EC > 2s & 3s](#))



SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!



DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.



WORSHIP

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to [Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s](#) folder.

SONG 1: God is With Me

SONG 2: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

SONG 3: Unstoppable God



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 4). Use the flipbook provided.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Supplies: none

God is with us! He's with us in good times, in bad times, in scary times, all the time! Let's all lay very still and close our eyes. **Let kids get settled for a few moments.** With your eyes closed, imagine God is laying right next to you, friends. He loves you and He is with you! **Invite kids to sit back up and talk about how it feels to know God loves them and is with them.**



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you remember that God is with you in the good and the hard. He loves you and will never leave you!

BIBLE STORY

Hamilton's Prop: fire



INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.



SAY:

Hi Hamilton! **Hamilton holds fire up to show you.** What do you have today? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Oh! It's a fire? It looks so hot! **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Oh good, it's just a pretend fire? That's good! You know what, Hamilton? That reminds me of a story in the Bible about a very hot fire and three men who trusted God was with them. Friends, if you're ready to hear our Bible story today, can you wiggle your ears with me? **Wiggle ears together.** Let's dive in!



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.



SAY:

Today's story is about three men - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Can you try saying those names with me, friends? **Have kids repeat after you say each name.** These three guys were good friends, and they loved God very very much! They prayed to God every day and wanted to follow God's direction. Can you pretend to pray to God? **Fold hands and close eyes like praying.**

King Nebuchadnezzar was the ruler over everyone. The king made a big, shiny statue and told all the people, "Bow down to my statue!" But do you know what the three men - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said? **NO! Shake your heads no with me.** They said, "No, we can't bow down. We only worship God!"

This made the king very mad. **Show me your mad face.** So, the king threw the three men into a big, hot blazing fire!

But, the men were not afraid... Why? Because they knew God would be with them, even in a big, hot blazing fire! And guess what? God was with them! God never left them. The guards by the fire even saw another person in the fire with the three men... God was with them! The fire didn't hurt them or burn them. God kept them safe.

The king was shocked! **Show me your shocked face.** The king saw that God is strong and takes care of His people. Just like God was with the three men in the fire, God is with us too - all the time! God is with us and God loves us!

6:40-6:55pm
9:40-9:55am
11:40-11:55am

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



SAY IT OUT LOUD!

Help the students remember the God Statement for the day by repeating it aloud and doing simple motions to help them remember the phrase.



SAY:

Today our God statement is **God is With Us!**

Let's say it together in a fun way to help us remember it.

Say it loudly, softly and in a fun voice. Then do the hand motions.



DO:

Use simple hand motions to help kids remember the God Statement as you say it together.



ACTIVITY- Act it Out

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the students can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: none



SAY:

No matter where we are or where we go, God is with us! If we drive in our car, God is with us. If we go to a new place, God is with us! If we're happy, sad, angry or scared, God is always with us! We are each going to take turns thinking of places where God is with us.



DO:

Find a clear space in your room to form a circle with the kids. Take turns stating a place where God is with you while making motions to represent that place. Repeat until all kids have had a chance to participate.

Examples:

- When I drive to church, God is with me! (**pretend to drive a car**)
- When I learn something new, God is with me! (**pretend to ride a bike**)
- When I make bad choices, God is still with me! (**make a sad face**)
- When I clean my toys, God is with me! (**pretend to clean up**)

6:55-7:10pm
9:55-10:10am
11:55am-12:10pm

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.



SNACK

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).



GAME IDEAS

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class.



DO:

- Face Copy Game (happy, sad, silly)
- Picture Naming (“What do you see?”)
- Stuffed Animal Toss
- Read a book or a story out of picture Bible
- Gather paper and crayons and practice drawing
- Follow the Leader (walk like animals, tiptoe, march)
- Body Part Pointing (“Where’s your elbow?”)
- Animal Movements (hop like a frog, slither like a snake)
- Organizing toys (by item, by color, by shape)
- March + Stop (march until you say “STOP!”)

As parents
arrive after
service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their Explore craft, utilize the prayer station or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any upcoming events or announcements while handing their parent the announcement card or flyer.