



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Aliens in a Strange Land  
Fall Year 4, Lesson 24

# The Fiery Furnace

**Take Home Point:** \*In fiery trials, trust God to rescue you. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Daniel 3

**Key Verse:** Isaiah 43:1b, 2b, "...this is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid, because I have reclaimed you, I have called you by name; you are mine... when you walk through the fire, you will not be burned."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible Event of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego delivered from the fiery furnace.
- Even as Christians, they will go through tough times that seem like fiery trials.
- God will rescue them in *his* best way, as they trust him through their fiery trials.
- Through Jesus, we can have the ultimate rescue, eternal life, no matter what fiery trials we face in this life.

**We will help kids feel:**

- Unshaken when they face future trials.
- Delight in the companionship they have with Christ during those trials.

**We will help kids do:**

- Melt a chocolate square as an image of what it feels like to go through a fiery trial.
- Discuss fiery trials in life and how the presence of Christ can deliver them as they make S'mores.

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# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<p><b>Small Group Warm-Up</b></p> 	3	<p>The shepherd will melt chocolate as a demonstration of how we might feel like we are melting in the midst of a fiery trial.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• liquid soap</li> <li>• metal spoon</li> <li>• candle</li> <li>• matches or lighter</li> <li>• chocolate square or chocolate chips</li> </ul>
<p><b>Large Group</b></p> 	<p>4</p> <p>8</p> <p>11</p> <p>11</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy’s Fiery Trial”—Gordy faces a fiery trial and looks for answers to help him.</p> <p><b>Video Presentation:</b> <i>Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel</i></p> <p><b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “Gordy’s Fiery Trial”—Gordy learns to trust God when fiery trials come.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy</li> <li>• Band-Aid around Gordy’s finger</li> <li>• transporter machine</li> <li>• <i>Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel</i>, produced by Nest Family Entertainment, 1993, ISBN 1-56489-076-7.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Small Group Application</b></p> 	4	<p>Children make S’mores as they discuss how Jesus helps them in their fiery trials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• candle</li> <li>• matches or lighter</li> <li>• graham crackers</li> <li>• chocolate bars or chocolate chips</li> <li>• bag of small marshmallows</li> <li>• forks</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*NOTE: It is the responsibility of your ministry to decide whether or not to use the suggested activities. See the Safety clause at the end of this lesson.*

*Supplies: liquid soap, metal spoon, candle, matches or lighter, chocolate square*

In advance, rub some liquid soap in the cradle of the metal spoon. When it is time to do the activity, light the candle and place the chocolate in the spoon. Hold it over the flame. Say:

**Watch what happens to this chocolate as I hold it over the flame during our discussion today about going through fiery trials.**

**Fiery trials are very difficult times that people go through. It might be a time you lose someone close to you. It might be a time when you feel scared or alone. The Bible even says that believers will go through fiery times because they believe in Jesus and other people may treat them badly.**

**We're going to talk about fiery trials and how it might feel like you are melting during them, just like this chocolate. For example, I went through a fiery trial recently when...**

Share an example of a trial you have faced.

**Who else would like to share a fiery trial? You can hold the spoon in the fire while you talk.**

As the kids share, make observations about what is happening to the chocolate. (*It may be bubbling, melting, smell bad, burning, there may be some smoke, etc.*) Explain that this might sometimes seem how it feels to go through a fiery trial.

**Today we will discover the secret to going through a fiery trial without melting down. We will learn: *\*In fiery trials, trust God to rescue you.***

## Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy’s Fiery Trial”—Gordy faces a fiery trial and looks for answers to help him.

**Video Presentation:** *Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel*

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy’s Fiery Trial”—Gordy learns to trust God when fiery trials come.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Daniel 3 in their Bibles.

**How did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego reply when King Nebuchadnezzar said he was going to throw them into the fiery furnace?** *(Daniel 3:16-18. They told him they did not have to defend themselves and God would rescue them. Even if he chose not to rescue them, they still would not bow down.)*

**What did the king and other men see when they looked into the fire after they threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the furnace?** *(Daniel 3:25. Four men walking around, unharmed.)*

**How did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego look when they came out of the fire?** *(Daniel 3:27. They had no burns on their hair or robes. They did not even smell of fire.)*

**How did King Nebuchadnezzar react?** (*Daniel 3:28-29. He told everyone to worship the true God or their houses would be turned to rubble.*)

### **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

**How do you think Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego felt when everyone except them bowed down to the king's statue?** (*Scared, proud.*)

**Who do you think was in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?** (*Some say Jesus or an angel.*)

**How do you think Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego felt while walking around in the furnace? Why?** (*Accept any answer but make sure that included are the answers that God was with them and they were not hurt...nor did they even smell of smoke or was their clothing burnt.*)

### **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

#### Application Activity:

*Supplies: candle, matches or lighter, graham crackers, chocolate squares, bag of large marshmallows, forks*

Place a chocolate square on a graham cracker and set it aside for later. Light the candle in the center of the group and say:

**How many of you have made S'mores around a campfire? We are going to make some today.**

Place a marshmallow on a fork and say:

**Remember what happened to the chocolate earlier when we put it over fire? (*It melted.*) That is kind of like us "melting down" when we face fiery trials.**

Place the marshmallow over the fire and begin to toast it.

**This marshmallow is like Jesus. He took all of our troubles on himself so we wouldn't melt. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He took the "heat" himself. Then when we are next to him...**

Using another graham cracker square, slide the roasted marshmallow onto the cracker with chocolate and smooch together to create a S'more.

**But the outcome is great. This chocolate and marshmallow together taste great. When you have Jesus, you're not just melted chocolate, you're more... a S'more! He is there so that *\*in fiery trials, trust God to rescue you..***

**Today's key verse from Isaiah 43:1-2 say, "...this is what the Lord says: *Do not be afraid, because I have reclaimed you, I have called you by name; you are mine...when you walk through the fire, you will not be burned.*"**

**Do you know how Jesus redeemed you? (*He died on the cross for the punishment we deserve for sin. He paid the price we owe.*)**

**Because God loves us this much, he also promises to be with us wherever we are even in the midst of fiery trials, just like the fourth man in the furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.**

Pass out chocolate squares, graham crackers, marshmallows and forks for each child to make a S'more. While kids are toasting their marshmallows, have them practice saying the key verse. Wrap up by restating the Take Home Point: ***\*In fiery trials, trust God to rescue you.***

*NOTE OF CAUTION: If you think there will be too much of a chance that an accident would occur, the marshmallows may be toasted alone by the shepherd or an assistant.*

*If you are concerned about the marshmallows causing choking, substitute this snack with something of your choosing.*

#### Closing Prayer:

Let kids pray for any fiery trials they, family members, or friends are currently facing. Pray that God would rescue them. Pray for courage to be aliens in this world and to stand up in fiery trials like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Thank God that he sent Jesus to redeem us, so that we can belong to him and can depend on him for our rescue.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## Aliens In a Strange Land

*This series covers the captivity in Babylon. Daniel and his friends were aliens in this strange land. Kids will discover that the word “alien” does not only mean “visitor from outer space,” but any person who is a foreigner from another land. Therefore, anyone who has faith in Christ is a citizen of heaven and an alien in this world. As a result, he or she doesn’t fit in with a sinful world. Many of the standards of this world are contrary to God’s kingdom.*

*Kids need to know that if they live their lives for Christ, they will receive pressure from the world to compromise their faith. But because they are citizens of God’s kingdom and foreigners, or aliens, to the ways of this world, they can trust God no matter what.*

*The metaphor of an alien will be used throughout the series. To help kids visualize this, construct an alien transporter machine from a cardboard refrigerator box or wall dividers. Use light, sound and spaceship decor. A child selected from the audience each week will appear from the machine and give an “alien’s perspective” on the lesson. Option: see picture.*



*The Bible Event will use the video “Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel” produced by Animated Bible Stories II, 1993. Sections of this video will be shown in the first four lessons. If you choose not to use the video, it would be simple to introduce a costumed character to tell the story.*

*After the video is shown for each lesson, Gordy who is the alienologist and the expert of aliens, wants to understand how these aliens think. The Large Group presenter will bring up a child to go through the alien machine and come out to answer questions relevant to the topic of that day which describe us as foreigners in a sinful world in which we don’t fit. The Large Group presenter will help the child through some application questions that lead us to the Take Home Point for each lesson.*

*Supplies: Band-Aid on Gordy’s finger, “Transporter” machine, video: Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel*

# **Gordy's Fiery Trial**

## **Puppet Presentation**

**Presenter:** Good morning, kids. Welcome to Kingdom Quest. Today our adventure is to discover "Aliens in a Strange Land." Should we see if Gordy is around here somewhere? Gordy? Gordy?

Gordy: *(Comes out wearing a Band-Aid on his finger.)* Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!

**Presenter:** Gordy, what happened?

Gordy: I don't want to talk about it. Where's that transporter machine?

**Presenter:** What do you mean, Gordy?

Gordy: Last week we had a transporter and one of the kids came through and was an alien.

**Presenter:** That's right. We were learning that aliens are actually people from a foreign land, not outer space.

Gordy: Yeah, yeah. Well, we had a kid come through the transporter.

**Presenter:** Right, Gordy. I'm glad you remembered.

Gordy: I want to go back the other way.

**Presenter:** What do you mean?

Gordy: I want to leave from here and go to another land.

**Presenter:** Where do you want to go?

Gordy: Anywhere but here!

**Presenter:** Uh-oh! What happened?

Gordy: I had a bad morning! I sort of had a meltdown in my small group.

**Presenter:** That doesn't sound good. What happened in your meltdown?

Gordy: We were melting this chocolate because we were talking about going through fiery times.

**Presenter:** Yes...

Gordy: I decided it would be a good idea to turn the chocolate over and see if it burned.

**Presenter:** I don't think that was a good idea, Gordy.

Gordy: Neither did my shepherd! It started to run everywhere and the candle got all gooey.

**Presenter:** So what happened?

Gordy: He reached over and pulled the spoon out of my hand. The spoon hit the candle and the candle knocked over!

**Presenter:** Oh, no! (*Shaking his head.*) Then what?

Gordy: I went to pick up the candle and I burned myself.

**Presenter:** That's what the Band-Aid is for?

Gordy: No. I didn't really burn it that bad. My shepherd was pretty mad at me, so I told him I needed a Band-Aid so I could get out of there.

**Presenter:** So maybe then you wouldn't be in trouble? I guess it didn't work.

Gordy: No. That's why I want to go through the transporter.

**Presenter:** Gordy, sounds to me like you had a fiery trial.

Gordy: I'll say!

**Presenter:** Sometimes you can't run away from your fiery trials.

Gordy: What are you supposed to do then?

**Presenter:** Discover with us today, how *\*in fiery trials, trust God to rescue you.*

Gordy: You mean he can get me out of this?

**Presenter:** I think you have some consequences because you misbehaved. Still you can trust God as a rescuer. More importantly, what would you say if you did something right and you got in trouble for it?

Gordy: That's never happened to me!

**Presenter:** You'll see in our Bible Event today that it does sometimes happen. In fact, it happened to three young men. They did something right. Actually, they refused to do something very wrong which was to bow down to a false idol.

Gordy: I would refuse to do that, too!

**Presenter:** Even if it meant that you would be thrown into a fiery furnace?

Gordy: Uh-oh!

**Presenter:** They learned *\*in fiery trials, trust God to rescue you, just like we'll learn today. The event begins when King Nebuchadnezzar built an idol 90 feet high!*

Gordy: Whoa!

**Presenter:** And when the music played, everyone was supposed to bow down to the idol.

Gordy: What kind of music?

**Presenter:** A horn, flute and stringed instruments. Tell you what. I bet I can get the kids out here in the audience to help me with the music. I'm going to divide the room into three sections.

Indicate to the audience where the sections are.

**Section one will be the horns and they sound like this...**(Hold hands up like playing a trumpet and make a "trumpet" sound. *Dum-da-da-dum*)

**Section two will be the flutes...**(Hold hands like playing a flute and make a "flute" sound. *Tut-tu-tu-tu*)

**Section three will be the stringed instruments...**(Hold hands like playing a guitar and make melody of dueling guitars. *Da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da*. Or the sound of an electric guitar.)

**Let's all practice. When I say, "At the sound of the music," you all make your sounds. Okay. "At the sound of the music..."**

Audience makes music.

**Very good.**

**So King Nebuchadnezzar made an idol 90 feet high. He called everyone including judges, advisers and governors to worship the idol. He commanded that, at the sound of the music (indicate that**

each group make their musical sounds), **everyone must bow down or they would be thrown into the fiery furnace.** The time came and at the sound of the music (cue audience), **everyone bowed down. Everyone except Daniel's friends: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.** Some men went to the king and told him that, at the sound of the music (cue audience), **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were not bowing down.**

Gordy: What happened then?

**Presenter: Let's take a look at our video today to find out.**

## **Video**

Show Video: *Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel.* Start 10 minutes after the opening credits with the story of Daniel and his friends promoted by the king. It will say, "Several years later" on the screen. End at 14 minutes, right after King Nebuchadnezzar says, "Blessed be the God of Israel."

## **Gordy's Fiery Trial**

### **Puppet Conclusion**

**Presenter: I need to find an alien from the audience. Here in Kingdom Quest an alien is a citizen of heaven. That means you are a citizen in God's Kingdom because you trust Jesus as your Savior and you want to follow him. It also means you are just visiting earth during this lifetime, but your true home is in heaven. So I need someone who fits that description of an alien.**

Select a kid from audience to come forward.

**Let's put you through the transporter. You are stepping through from God's kingdom to this world where you live as an alien. I Peter 2:11-12 reminds us of this by saying,**

***"Dear friends, since you are foreigners and temporary residents in this world, I'm encouraging you to keep away from the desires of your corrupt nature ...Live decent lives among unbelievers. Then, although they ridicule you as if you were doing wrong while they are watching you do good things, they will praise God on the day he comes to help you."***

Have the volunteer enter the back of the Alien Transporter machine and walk through it to the front. Have any bells, whistles, horns, lights operating so as to give a sense of change.

To volunteer:

**Pretend you lived in the time of Daniel and his friends and King Nebachudnezzar says, (Kids, are you ready?) “At the sound of the music (cue audience), you must bow down to my idol.**

**As an alien or foreigner of that country and a believer in the one true God, what would you say? Would you bow down? Why wouldn't you? (“God tells us not to” or “It is wrong.”)**

**I think this is an example of a fiery trial and *\*in fiery trials, trust God to rescue you.* Did you know that if God had chosen not to pull Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego out of the fiery furnace, he still would have chosen to rescue them? That is because if they had died, they would still be with Jesus in heaven.**

Have the volunteer return to his/her seat. Continue with puppet script.

**Gordy:** Do you think anyone will ever ask me to worship another God or bow down to an idol?

**Presenter:** **They might not ask you to bow down but they might make fun of you for following Jesus. They may call you funny, or square or goody-two-shoes.**

**Gordy:** Me!?!

**Presenter:** **Someday it will happen. People will make fun of you for being a follower of Jesus. You might go through a fiery trial then, too. What do you think you will do?**

**Gordy:** I hope I won't run away.

**Presenter:** **I hope you won't either. There is one thing you can remember that will help make sure you don't run away.**

**Gordy:** What's that?

**Presenter:** ***\*In a fiery trial, trust God to rescue you. The Bible says in Isaiah 43, “...this is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid, because I have reclaimed you, I have called you by name; you are mine...when you walk through the fire, you will not be burned.”***

**Picture Jesus right next to you. He is God's Son who gave his life for you. He loves you very much, so even when you can't see him, he's right there with you. You can talk to him any time.**

Gordy: I know that and it makes me feel a lot better.

**Presenter: Even when you make mistakes, he's there to forgive you and help you to do better.**

Gordy: That's one of my favorite things about him!

**Presenter: I'm glad, Gordy. You don't have to run or melt down in the fiery trials you face. Just trust God to rescue you. Why don't you pray about that?**

Gordy: Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you that he is our rescuer, especially in fiery trials. We sometimes need rescuing because we get in trouble. Other trials might come because we follow you. Help us to trust you. Thank you for being near to help us. In Jesus' name, Amen.