



Date: _____

Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus
Winter Year 3, Lesson 38

Be Ready For The Day of The Lord

Primary Scripture: 2 Peter 3:10-18; Daniel 3:17-18

Key Verse: 2 Peter 3:11, "All these things will be destroyed in this way. So think of the kind of holy and godly lives you must live..."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to know how their world will end. The Bible's description of the events sounds scary. Everything is burned with fire while a new heaven and earth is made. Yet there is comfort in knowing that all those who have trusted in Jesus do not perish in the fire. In fact, they live in a new heaven and new earth, face to face with God. It will be far better than anything we have here on earth. The fires and trials of this life pale in comparison to the joys we will have in heaven.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus endured the punishment of the cross, taking God's wrath due to our sin, so that we might be spared.

Jesus in us: Jesus lives with us to help us endure any fiery trials we may face.

Jesus through us: As we endure fiery trials and/or persecutions, Jesus in us will help us be bright witnesses to others so that they, too, might live forever.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies needed: several pieces of flash paper (see supply list)

In advance, place several pieces of flash paper on a nearby table.

Read 2 Peter 3:10,12:

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day heaven will pass away with a roaring sound. Everything that makes up the universe will burn and be destroyed... When that day comes, heaven will be on fire and will be destroyed. Everything that makes up the universe will burn and melt."

Point to the table and say:

Someday this table will burn up just like this.

Pick up and light a strip of flash paper and throw it into the air.

Even our houses will burn up just like this on the last day.

Light another strip of flash paper.

Even the heaven and the stars will go up like this.

Light another strip of flash paper.

Thinking about this can be kind of scary except for one thing: God says that when Jesus comes back on the last day, he is just changing this world by burning it all up to make a perfect new heaven and earth. There we will be with him face to face. It will be a million times better than it is now! The new heaven will be prepared for all of those who know and trust Jesus as their Savior.

The Bible continues by saying this:

“Therefore, dear friends, with this to look forward to, make every effort to have him find you at peace, without spiritual stains or blemishes. Think of our Lord’s patience as an opportunity for us to be saved...” (2 Peter 3:14, 15.)

Now is the time for us to worship God and thank him for his great love. Even if this world passes away, we will be okay. We will be able to live forever because God has given us Jesus. Jesus washed us clean of all of our sins. In God’s eyes, we have no stains when we trust him.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

“Disappearing Ink”

Supplies needed: disappearing ink purchased at a novelty store

Refer to 2 Peter 3:14 again:

“Therefore, dear friends, with this to look forward to, make every effort to have him find you at peace, without spiritual stains or blemishes.”

Have someone wearing a white shirt come forward and spray disappearing ink on it.

Getting ink on our clean, white clothes can be very shocking. Our sin is even more shocking than that. We would hate to be found with that kind of stain on us when Jesus comes back.

Notice that this stain is beginning to go away. The stains of our sins begin to fade when we trust Jesus and ask for his forgiveness and power in our lives. Let's do that now as we confess our sins in prayer.

By the time the confession is over, the stain should have evaporated.

This is a wonderful reminder that God's word says, "*Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow...*" (Isaiah 1:18a, NIV.)

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Point out that all money will be burned up on the last day. But the way that we use our money to show God's love will last forever.

Give an update on your kids' current mission project and how they are progressing toward the goal.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies needed: masking tape, two scooters, one hula hoop for every five or six kids.

“Shooting Hoops”

In advance, put two tapelines on the floor about 15-30 feet apart. Make the lines close enough that it’s relatively easy for the hoop-rollers to hit the “target” kids.

Divide kids into groups of five or six. Have the children line up in several lines to roll the hula hoops. The kids with the hula hoops line up behind one line. The scooter-riders ride on next to the second tapeline. Give a hula hoop to each group to see if they can hit the two children riding scooter(s) across the room in front of them. For added interest, have kids ride in opposite directions at the same time. (See arrows on diagram.)



Each time the scooter riders ride across the room, the child at the front of each line rolls his hula hoop at the rider, so that all the hula hoops are rolling one right after the other, like a gauntlet. After each round, the child who rolled the hula hoop for his team retrieves it, gives it to the next kid in line, and goes to the back of the line. In this way, every child will get a chance to try to hit a scooter rider.

After several kids have had a chance to ride a scooter, comment how hard it is to do it without getting hit. Next, select a volunteer for each rider and have the volunteer protect the rider as he/she rides across the room. The protector can deflect hula hoops so that the rider crosses without getting hit.

NOTE: You may not want them riding in opposite directions at the same time as this may cause injuries/collisions.

The teaching point:

Throughout our lives, we have trials and difficulties. Sometimes these trials may occur because we believe in Jesus. Some people may not understand our belief in Jesus and might be mean to us because of it. This is called “persecution.” Sometimes it is even called the “fire of persecution.” When we are persecuted, should we stop trusting and following Jesus? Of course not!

When we trust in Jesus, he says he will be right with us to protect us, even when bad things happen. We can keep on going in life with his help. God loves us very much. We can trust God to be with us, to protect us, and to give us strength to keep on going in the middle of persecution.

Hebrews 13:5b-6 says:

***“...God has said, ‘I will never abandon you or leave you.’
So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper. I will
not be afraid...’”***

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies needed: video—Animated Stories from the Old Testament: Daniel, from Nest Family Entertainment — order from: <http://www.nestfamily.com>.

Show the video Animated Stories from the Old Testament: Daniel. Show the first section that covers Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire.

After watching the video, talk about the fourth man in the fire.

In the furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was a fourth person. He is often called the Son of Man. This may have been Jesus or an angel from God. God delivered those men who trusted in him. He kept them safe through the fire of persecution.

Remember the statement of trust in God that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego made?

“If our God, whom we honor, can save us from a blazing furnace and from your power, he will, Your Majesty. But if he doesn’t, you should know, Your Majesty, we’ll never honor your gods or worship the gold statue that you set up.” (Daniel 3:17, 18.)

Application:

Supplies: the gospel illusion by Steve Heart called “In the Fire” ordered from Dock Haley Gospel Magic

To further illustrate the story, use the gospel illusion by Steve Heart called “In the Fire.” This dramatic illusion tells the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Let the children talk about any experiences they had where they underwent the “fire of persecution.”

Conclude by pointing out that on the last day, believers will all be saved from the final fire that destroys everything on earth. We will then be given a new heaven and a new earth that God makes for all those who follow him and trust in Jesus.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- several pieces of flash paper— ordered from Dock Haley Gospel Magic at (615) 885-4800: <http://www.gospelmagic.com>

The Power of the Cross:

- disappearing ink purchased at a novelty store

Learning Game:

- masking tape
- two scooters
- five or six hula hoops

Bible Reading:

- video—Animated Stories from the Old Testament: Daniel, from Nest Family Entertainment — order from: <http://www.nestfamily.com>

Application:

- gospel illusion called “In the Fire,” by Steve Heart, ordered from Dock Haley Gospel Magic at (615) 885-4800: <http://www.gospelmagic.com>

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