



Date: _____

Series: God Is Powerful
Fall Year 1, Lesson 21

Three Men and the Fiery Furnace

Bible Event: Daniel 3

Take Home Point: *GOD IS POWERFUL – *Trust God's power... Cool!*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: We have Jesus' power with us always.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God is able to help us in every way possible. He is so powerful! We can trust him to help us do what is right. He can help us make good decisions if we trust him as our King. Kids will take home the point: ***GOD IS POWERFUL – *Trust God's power...Cool!***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and creating them. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.

Kids Church Year 1 - Lesson 21 - 1



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Veggie Tales: “Rack, Shack and Benny”

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Interactive Drama

Recreate the furnace scene from Daniel 3. Use a large refrigerator box, or some kind of large partition, decorated with red and orange streamers. You may want to set up a fan behind the scenes to blow the streamers. Hide a helper, dressed in white, in the back of the box or behind the partition, so the children don't know he's there. Also, choose three kids from the group. Pull them aside and tell them they are going to be characters in today's Bible Event. Explain that when the other kids are told to kneel down, they should stay standing. Tell them they are going to be sent into the pretend furnace, but not to tell anyone. Send them back into the group.

Tell the kids that they are going to pretend they are back in history and are going to obey what the king of that time, King Nebuchadnezzar, tells them to do.

King Nebuchadnezzar built an idol that was as tall as the top of this building. It was gold, and all of the people were supposed to worship it. One day, King Nebuchadnezzar told all of the people to kneel in front of the idol. Let's pretend we are there and are following his orders.

Direct all of the kids to kneel – except the three that were instructed not to, earlier.

The king couldn't believe that these three men didn't kneel down. He was very angry and wanted to throw them into the furnace. First, he asked them why they didn't kneel. They said that they would not worship that idol, because they believed in God instead. The king said that he was going to send them into the fiery furnace and wondered if their God would rescue them. The three men told King Nebuchadnezzar that God was able to save them, but even if God didn't, they still wouldn't kneel before the idol. This made the king so mad that he had the furnace set to seven times hotter than normal! Let's count to seven. That was really, really hot! And the king sent the three men into the fiery furnace.

Have the three chosen children walk into the pretend furnace.

But when the king looked again, he saw four people dancing around the fire.

Have the three children and the hidden helper come out and dance around the front of the furnace.

King Nebuchadnezzar couldn't believe it! There should only be three people, not four. And they should be burnt in the fire, not dancing around. Do you believe it?

King Nebuchadnezzar called the three men over to him. (The hidden helper angel can disappear behind the furnace.) Because these three believed in God and God saved them from the fire, King Nebuchadnezzar let them go and believed how powerful God really was. Remember: *GOD IS POWERFUL – Trust God's power...Cool!



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Red Hots or red, orange and yellow candy to represent fire.

Drama Zone: Sit down, close eyes and imagine what it was like to be so hot in that furnace. Imagine that you're sweaty, hot, scared and think of hot things. Then think about God and how much you trust him. Then imagine things to cool you off, like water and ice and ice cream.

Puppet Zone: Have the children use puppets to act out the story of Three Men & the Fiery Furnace from today's Bible event.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Three Men & the Fiery Furnace from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #88, "Delivered from the Fiery Furnace," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt.*)

Messy Zone: Red and orange play dough. Make a fire or a furnace.

Video Zone: Watch the video, *Veggie Tales: "Rack, Shack and Benny."*

Craft Zone: Fold a blank sheet of paper in half to make a card. Use crayons and markers to decorate the outside cover like a fire. On the inside, draw the three people in the furnace. On the inside of the cover, place an angel or Jesus sticker to represent the fourth person in the furnace. Also attach a pre-made label that says "Trust God's Power."

Play Zone: Blocks. Build a "furnace."

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Read under a table or in the pretend furnace.

Music Zone: Sing the song: *Obedient*, by Angela Naeve, from the CD titled, *Each Day* or other music of your choice.

Coloring Zone: “Three Men & the Fiery Furnace” coloring page

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.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out and wants to play Simon Says with the kids. Bubba gets to be Simon and the kids have to play. Bubba starts easy...."Simon says stand up." "Hop in place." "Simon says turn in a circle," etc. Do several.

Then Bubba gives a few directions that shouldn't be included, like: "Simon says hit your neighbor." "Simon says wipe your nose," etc. The large group presenter cuts him off and has the kids sit down. The large group presenter explains why that was wrong.

Presenter: Bubba, you should have listened to today's lesson. People shouldn't do things they know are wrong, just because someone tells them to. For example, when the king told those people to kneel before the idol... they knew that was not the right thing to do.

Bubba knew that it wasn't right to worship an idol, but he would have been afraid of that fiery furnace. He would have done what they said.

Presenter: No, Bubba! That's where God comes in. We can trust God to be in our heart and he will help us to do what is right. We need to know that God is powerful and he will always help us. We shouldn't hit our neighbors, or take toys away from our little brothers and sisters, or even worship idols. We should do what we know in our heart is right and God will help us to do that. Remember: *GOD IS POWERFUL – Trust God's power...Cool!

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, crayons

Opening Worship:

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate
- furnace scene:
 - large refrigerator box, or some kind of large partition, decorated with red and orange streamers
 - fan, set up behind the scenes to blow the streamers (optional)
- white costume/clothes for one helper

Action Zones:

Snack Zone:

- red hots or red, orange and yellow candy

Drama Zone:

- no supplies needed

Puppet Zone:

- puppets to act out the story of Three Men and the Fiery Furnace from today's Bible event

Felt Zone:

- felt board and materials to show the story of Three Men & the Fiery Furnace from today's Bible event (For example, use Lesson #88, "Delivered from the Fiery Furnace," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*—order from www.bettylukens.com)

Messy Zone:

- play dough in red and orange

Craft Zone:

- blank paper
- markers and crayons
- angel or Jesus stickers
- one pre-made sticker* per child (Avery 5160 label) that says "Trust God's Power"

Play Zone:

- blocks

Quiet Reading Zone:

- basket of books
- table or box

Video Zone:

- *Veggie Tales: Rack, Shack, and Benny*, Big Idea Productions—order from <http://store.yahoo.net/yhst-54787164184156/rashbevcl.html>

Music Zone:

- *Obedient*, by Angela Naeve, from the CD titled, *Each Day* or other music of your choice

Coloring Zone:

- crayons and markers
- "Three Men & the Fiery Furnace" coloring page

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books