



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Jesus Is the King  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 40

# Standing in the Fire

**Primary Scripture:** Daniel 3

**Key Verse:** John 16:33b, "...In the world you'll have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world."

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

As children know and follow Jesus as their king, they need to expect that they will receive persecution. The question is, "How will they stand up in the heat of persecution?" For them to do so, they need to expect difficulties when they make a stand for Jesus and know his promise that they will be blessed if they do so. The story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego serves as a great example of God's faithfulness and protection from the heat of the fire. God will be faithful to us, protecting anyone who serves him first and foremost.

**How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:**

Jesus is the King who has given his life for us—that is the ultimate commitment. Because of his commitment for us, we can commit our lives to him and gladly take the heat or persecution we will receive as a result of it.

**Jesus in us:**

Just as the One appeared as the Son of God with the men in the fiery furnace, so is Jesus with us in the trials we face.

**Jesus through us:**

In the heat of trials, difficulties or persecution, our witness is all the more clearly seen. Jesus will shine through us.

## 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 the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

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

*Supplies:*

- *Shrink wrap—rolls or bags are available in craft store party departments—the range in price for the bags is \$2.00 to \$2.50 and the rolls, at 60" by 3 yards, ranges \$5.00 to \$7.00 each (If not available there, check with department store cosmetic counters or floral shops.)*
- *A small cross*
- *Electric hair dryer with a hot setting*

Turn on hair dryer and blow hot air into the audience.

**As I blow this hair dryer toward you, can you feel the heat? The closer you get to it, the hotter it feels. If you put your hand very close to it, it might become uncomfortably hot. It might even begin to burn you. No one likes to be in the heat so much that they get burned or uncomfortable, but we have a saying, "Can you take the heat?" This means, "Can you endure pressure or persecution?"**

**Jesus says that just as people persecuted him, people will persecute those who follow him. To persecute means to make fun of or even hurt someone because they believe in Jesus. Has that ever happened to you?**

**Today we are going to talk about what to do when it does happen. Then, we'll ask the question, "Can you take the heat?" We mean the heat of persecution or being made fun of for Jesus' sake.**

Wrap the shrink wrap around the cross, holding it tightly at the base and say:

**Let's imagine that this plastic is you and people see in your life that you follow Jesus. This might mean that you choose not to go along with bad things others may be doing. This might mean that you talk about Jesus. It might mean that you worship him. But when some people see this in you, just like you see this cross under the plastic wrap, they may want to put the heat on.**

Begin blowing hair dryer heat on the shrink-wrap. As you heat the shrink-wrap, continue with the examples of persecution.

**They may say, "You are stupid to follow Jesus." They may say, "You think you are too good for everyone." They may say, "Jesus is not the only way to God." They may say, "I will not be your friend if you believe all that religious stuff." They may say, "Do you want to fight?" They may even do mean things to you. This is like putting on the heat. So, can you take the heat? Look what happens when the heat is put on. *(The shrink-wrap closes tightly around the cross.)***

**If you take a stand for Jesus and cling to Jesus, this is what happens; you get closer and closer and closer to him and people can see more and more of Jesus in your life. It is just like this plastic that is wrapped tightly around Jesus and the cross.**

**This is what we want to do today. With faith we wrap ourselves tightly to Jesus and what he has done for us. He is our King who gave his life for us and we will take a stand with him. Let's do that today when we worship.**

## **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!*

## **The Power of the Cross:**

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

**In many ways, we may do wrong things that may show others that we are not following Jesus very closely. Maybe we go along with the crowd when they are doing something wrong. Maybe we cheat on a test. Maybe we are unkind to someone at school who is getting**

**picked on. Maybe we simply forget about God and do not care what he thinks. Certainly that is not standing up very well to the heat, is it? But what does Jesus do for us at those times? He says, “Come to me and get forgiveness. Wrap yourself tightly around the cross. It is a symbol of what I have done for you and how much I love you. Because of that, you will know that I will always be with you.” That is Jesus’ promise.**

Hold up the cross with the shrink-wrap around it.

**Let’s now come close to Jesus and in our hearts tell him of any ways we have not stood up to the heat and followed him. When we confess our sins, he is faithful and will forgive us our sins, and make our hearts right again. This, then, will give us strength to take the heat next time we are tested.**

**Pray to yourself at this time....**

Pause for silent prayer.

**I want you to know, in Jesus’ name, that your sins are forgiven. You have wrapped yourself tightly around the cross. Because of that, his power is with you. Wherever you go, people will be able to see Jesus in your life. They will see him living through you.**

## **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.*

Place the shrink-wrapped cross in the offering basket and ask children to bring their offerings and lay them inside.

**Our offerings are a way we say, “Thank you, Jesus, for being our King and giving your life for us.” When we give our offerings to him, we are also saying, “You are our God and the one who gave us all that we have.”**



# 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.*

### *Option 1:*

*Supplies: a hair dryer, extension cord, bucket and ping-pong ball for every ten kids*

### **Hair Dryer Ping Pong Ball Relay:**

Line up teams of 10 kids with a hair dryer and a ping-pong ball at one end of each line and a bucket at the other. To play, turn the hair dryer on hot setting and balance the ping-pong ball at the top of the airflow. Have kids pass the hair dryer down the row, trying to balance the ball on top of the air cushion. They complete their mission when they drop the ball into the bucket. The bucket is then passed to the beginning of the line with the ping-pong ball and hair dryer remaining at the end of the line. The ball will then be returned down the line to the bucket once again. Any time the ball is dropped, the hair dryer and ball must start again at the beginning of the line.

After the game, say:

**Today we are asking ourselves the question, “Can you take the heat?” Do you remember what the heat might be? Yes, the heat or pressure of persecution because we believe in Jesus. It could also be when something happens in our life because of faith in Jesus.**

**Maybe this game will help show us how we can stand up to the heat of persecution in our lives. The hot air from the hair dryer reminds us of the pressure or persecution that the world might blow at us for being a Christian. Where is the best place to be? We want to be above it, don’t we? Just like the ping-pong ball, as we ride above the air, we can stay on top. The way we do that is to always rely on God for our power from above. Remember that Jesus said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” If you ever feel alone, when you are going through trial or a difficulty, or even pressure or persecution, remember God wants you to look up to him and trust him... for that will keep you above the “hot air.”**

### *Option 2:*

*Supplies: a hair dryer for each team, a table per two teams, and ping-pong balls*

#### **The Battle of the Hair Dryers:**

Place a member of each team on opposite sides of tables armed with a hair dryer. Each player will defend his or her section of the table. The object is to keep the ping-pong ball on the opponent's side. The hair dryers may not be held over the table top and get too close to the ping-pong ball. Once the ping-pong ball goes to the other side, the score is recorded and a new team member steps up for both teams. The team with the lowest score wins.

Teach the learning point of the game.

**Persecution or pressure tries to push us around just like the ping pong ball was pushed around. Wouldn't this game be easy if someone could reach in and simply hold the ping-pong ball? Of course, and that is what God does for us when we pray to him; he holds us steady during the winds of persecution.**

**Jesus gave us hope when he said in John 16:33, "...In the world you'll have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world."**

## **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.*

### *Option 1:*

Video: *Rack, Shack and Benny*, Veggie Tales, Big Idea Productions, 1995—order from [http://www.cfmedia.com/Listings/VT4\\_Rack.shtml](http://www.cfmedia.com/Listings/VT4_Rack.shtml)

After viewing the video, talk about the real story of the Bible account in Daniel 3.

### *Option 2:*

Use the Gospel Illusion, *In the Fire* by Steve Hart. Doc Haley Gospel Magic Company provides this. Order over the internet at [http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel\\_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F9683827&rnd=4371467&rrc=N&affl=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7017&cat=&catstr=](http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F9683827&rnd=4371467&rrc=N&affl=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7017&cat=&catstr=).

This gospel illusion is a dramatic surprise effect of finding four men in the fire while the story is told in detail.



# 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 children tell about ways they have been tested, or ways in which they have had to stand up to the heat of persecution or trials because of their faith. It is especially helpful if an adult can begin sharing his/her own testimony.

## 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.*

In prayers today remember those people around the world who are persecuted for their faith. For illustrations, check out these internet sites: [www.persecuted.org](http://www.persecuted.org), [www.persecutedchurch.org](http://www.persecutedchurch.org), and [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com).

## 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:*

- shrink wrap plastic – rolls or bags
- small cross
- electric hair dryer

## *The Power of the Cross:*

- shrink wrapped cross from *Attention Grabber*

## *Offering:*

- above cross

## *Learning Game:*

### *Option 1:*

- hair dryer
- ping pong ball for every ten kids
- bucket
- extension cord

### *Option 2:*

- hair dryer for each team
- table per two teams
- ping pong balls

## *Bible Presentation:*

- video: *Rack, Shack and Benny*, Veggie Tales—order from [http://www.cfmedia.com/Listings/VT4\\_Rack.shtml](http://www.cfmedia.com/Listings/VT4_Rack.shtml)
- Gospel Illusion, *In the Fire*, by Steve Hart—order from [http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel\\_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F9683827&rnd=4371467&rrc=N&affl=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7017&cat=&catstr=](http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F9683827&rnd=4371467&rrc=N&affl=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7017&cat=&catstr=)

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