



Date: _____

Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus
Winter Year 3, Lesson 46

Daniel—Man of Prayer and Peace

Primary Scripture: Daniel, chapters 1-6 Daniel's story

Key Verses: Philippians 4:6-7, "...God's peace ... will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus."

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

Peace is an inner calm despite anxious situations that might surround us. Kids need this peace. Often their families are fragmented. Many are torn apart by divorce and many others do not experience healthy emotional bonds. Kids are growing up in a more violent world and encounter aggression as a way to cope with conflict with their peers. What can help? A peace that comes from God. Kids receive security in their lives through faith in Christ. As they learn to pray and practice God's presence, they receive the peace they need in the flurry of life. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel all remained faithful in prayer to the only true God, despite the world around them attacking and condemning them. Kids today can have that same peace as they give everything to God in prayer.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus gave his life for us so that through Christ we always have forgiveness and peace with God. (*Romans 5:1-2.*)

Jesus in us: The peace of Jesus is experienced within us as we pray faithfully. (*Philippians 4:6-7.*)

Jesus through us: Through the peace of Jesus in our lives, we are strong witnesses in an anxious world.

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: mini-parachute or bed sheet, various balls or objects to bounce on the sheet, altar cross or small wooden processional cross

Ask four volunteers to come forward and hold the corners of the sheet tightly. Have them wave their corners up and down—slowly at first and then faster and faster.

Imagine that this sheet represents your life. There can be lots of busyness and activity. Sometimes there can be challenges and struggles. As I throw this ball on the sheet, think of something you worry about.

Notice how the ball is bouncing up and down. Here's another ball that might represent a fight or argument. This might be a problem your family is experiencing. Mom and Dad may be fighting or maybe your family is splitting up. You might have a fight with one of your friends and someone calls you a bad name.

Name conflicts as you throw various objects on the sheet. Put more balls or objects on the sheet and have kids make faster and harder waves so the balls bounce in an erratic fashion. This represents all the forces of conflict and worry in this world.

The more of these conflicts we have, the more we see them bouncing all around. Often, that's what our lives feel like. We feel worried and nervous inside. What are we to do?

Today, we learn the Bible verse in Philippians 4:6-7 that says, “Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks. Then God’s peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus.”

This is what happens.

Place a cross in the middle of the sheet. This can be done by reaching over the side and pressing the cross firmly into the sheet’s center or going underneath and holding the cross firmly through the material. This will lessen the vibration on the ends and the bouncing items will then slide to the middle.

This is a picture of Jesus bringing calm to our lives even though there are many conflicts around us.

Now we see that when we pray and let God know what our problems are instead of worry, even though there can be lots of bad stuff happening around us, we can be calm because we know Jesus loves us and is right there with us. He will give us the power to guard our thoughts and emotions.

When we worship today, let’s remember to give God all of our worries and troubles. Let’s remember to call on Jesus and let him bring calm to our insides when times are tough.

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.

Did you know that it is a sin to worry? Yes. When we worry, it means that we forgot to bring our cares and worries to the Lord. That is why it says in Philippians 4:6, “Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests...”

Let’s do that now.

Dear God, we are sorry for the times we have worried. We have been thinking about the bad things instead of about how you can help us. Now we are thinking about those times we worried this past week. (Pause.) Help us better trust you and love you with our whole heart. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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.

Supplies needed: a parachute or sheet from Attention Grabber

Lay the sheet or parachute used in the *Attention Grabber* at the foot of the altar. Let the children place their offerings there.

Then have four volunteers take the corners of the sheet and bounce the offering toward heaven.

This is a way of showing that our offerings are what we give to God. The Bible says instead of worrying, we pray while we give thanks. Giving our offerings is an important way to say “thank you” to God. It also helps us not worry because it reminds us that God has always been good to us and has given us all that we need.



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: four bed sheets, tennis balls or small objects to use as “volleyballs”

“Parachute Volleyball”

In advance, construct a four-square volleyball area by stretching two ropes across the room intersecting in the middle.

Position a team of kids in each of the four squares around their “parachutes.” Use the sheets as “parachutes” to catch and throw tennis balls or other small objects. Kids hold the sheets at the edges and move as a group to catch the ball when it is launched into their quadrant. Then they try to launch it into another team’s quadrant.

If an object hits the ground in another team’s territory, it counts as a point against them. The team with the fewest points wins.

For an extra treat, if the weather is warm, play the game outside with water balloons as the volleyballs.

Explain how we can catch our worries that come bounding in toward us, but, as quickly, lift them off and give them to God. Then we have peace. Notice how our “parachutes” are still then.

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: the video from Nest Family Entertainment titled The Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel

Our Bible reading today is from the book of Daniel, chapters 1-6. Rather than read it to you, let's watch it on video. As you watch, count how many times something bad happens to Daniel or his friends and see how they react.

Did they have peace inside even though something bad was happening?

What did they do that helped them have peace?

We will review after the video.

Show the video.

NOTE: You may want to abbreviate the video and show only the part from the three men in the fire to the end.

Application:

Here is a quick review of the video. What were some of the bad things that happened?

Possible answers:

- *Daniel and his friends were captured as young children and brought to Babylon.*
- *They were told to eat foods forbidden by the Law of Moses.*
- *They were told they would be killed because no one could interpret the dream.*
- *They were told to bow down before an idol.*
- *They were thrown into a fiery furnace.*
- *Daniel was thrown in the lion's den.*

In all these situations, although bad things happened on the outside, since they prayed and trusted in God, they were calm on the inside.



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.

Have kids describe ways they worried about something and then prayed about it and things became better.

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.

Invite kids to pray for God's peace to be demonstrated in their lives and the lives of people they know.

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:

- mini-parachute or bed sheet
- balls
- altar cross, small wooden cross, or processional cross

Offering:

- parachute or sheet from Attention Grabber

Learning Game:

- four bed sheets
- tennis balls or small objects to use as “volleyballs”

Bible Presentation:

- the video from Nest Family Entertainment titled *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel* –order from: http://www.nestfamily.com/childrens-bible-stories/store/product_detail.asp?ProductID=DND&ProductIDF=&deptid=1&start=21&page_rec=20

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