



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
Prophets & Promises Part 2: Elijah - Malachi
Unit 9, Lesson 44

Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace

Lesson Aim: To show God is present and our faith is strengthened when we unite.

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: Where is the hottest place you have ever been?

GAME: Musical Fiery Furnace

THE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO IS LORD OF ALL

Read Worship Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-2.

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook.

THE WORD GOD PROTECTS SHADRACH, MESHACH & ABEDNEGO

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God gave Ezekiel the dry bones vision and promise of a new heart.

Babylon's king, Nebuchadnezzar, made a 90-foot tall gold statue. Point to Ancient Babylon. Everyone had to worship it whenever music played, but three captives from Judah named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused. Point to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.). Let's see what the king did. Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Daniel 3:12-29; 4:3. Find and Highlight Key Verse First: Daniel 3:28. Pray. Read.

READERS' THEATRE: Let's act out our Bible passage.

THE WAY THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND OTHER BELIEVERS

Why did the king order the three men to be thrown into the fire? (They refused to worship his golden idol.) Why do you think they refused to obey even though they knew the punishment was death? They knew God had the power to rescue them, but chose to obey even if He chose not to rescue them. They loved God more than they loved their own lives! If you knew God might not rescue you, would you have still refused to worship the king's idol? If we ask Him, God will give us that kind of courage to always put Him first above any favorite activity, belonging, friendship, or even before ourselves! An idol is anything we treat as more important than God. What are

some idols that tempt us today? (Toys, games, collections, grades, sports, money, goals, clothing, "good luck" charms, being popular, being accepted, etc.) **Together, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego made the right choice to obey God. How do you think being together may have helped them find courage to put God first? Do you have a friend who believes in God that can help you put Him first?**

As each of you grasp a piece of this rope, name a way you can help each other stand strong when you feel pressured by others to focus on idols or disobey God's commandments. Continue until all the children have answered and are holding the rope. This rope reminds us that the men were tied up and thrown into the furnace together. Just as this rope connects us to each other, believing in God keeps us connected. We can put God first and that example will give others courage to make choices that are right in His eyes. The three men's brave choice pointed the king to God. What new law did the king order after this? (Anyone speaking against God would be punished by death.) How can your choices point others to God?

CHRIST CONNECTION:

What did the king see in the furnace? (Four men were walking around unbound and unharmed.) The king said the fourth man in the fire looked like the son of a god. Who do you think he was? Some think it was Jesus, and some think it was an angel. Either way, the Lord showed everyone He was with the three men in the fire. 600 years later, Jesus explained what happens when we come together as His followers. Reveal Matthew 18:20. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

How was the fiery furnace an example of Jesus' promise in Matthew 18:20? (They were there together in the name of God, and God was there in the fire with them.)

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: Piece of strong rope
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- OFFERING OF ART: Four men walking inside the fiery furnace
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Fiery Furnace Snack

GAME: Idol Bowling

CRAFT: "God's Music" Wind Chimes

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Praise Tag, Four Praise Corners

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW