



Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace

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

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Is Lord of All

THE WORD

Bible Story: Daniel 3:12-29; 4:3

What He has done: God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace and protected them from the flames.

Key Verse: Daniel 3:28

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Matthew 18:20

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

Unit 9: The Prophets and God's Sovereignty			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	Ezekiel and the Dry Bones, Ezekiel 18:30; 36:26-28; 37:4-6	God gave Ezekiel the dry bones vision and the promise of a new heart.	To understand what it means to have a new heart and a new life.
44	Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace, Daniel 3:12-29; 4:3	God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace and protected them from the flames.	To show God is present and our faith is strengthened when we unite.
45	Daniel and the Lion's Den, Daniel 6:10, 14-16, 19-23, 26-27; 9:4-5, 16a	God protected Daniel from the lions	To live a life of prayer in a trusting relationship with God.
46	Zechariah and the Flying Scroll, Zechariah 1:3; 4:6; 5:1-4; 9:9	God gave Zechariah a message about returning to the Lord.	To know the Holy Spirit will help us return to God, put Him first, and make good choices.
47	Malachi and God's Message of Tithing, Malachi 2:2; 3:1, 7-10	God challenged His people to give Him their tithes and offerings.	To know that giving our tithes and offerings brings us closer to Him.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Isaiah 43. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for choosing us to belong to You. Thank You for Your love that brings life and for being with us when we gather in Your name. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Musical Fiery Furnace	Chairs, red and orange cloth or paper, CD player, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Chosen People"
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Chosen People" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "At the Name of Jesus" "I Am the Way" "Not by Might" "Search Me, O God" "You Will Seek Me" "Prepare to Meet Your God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "I Love You, Lord" "Fairest Lord Jesus" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1-2	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 44 The Love Sub script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Daniel 3:12-29; 4:3	Readers' Theatre scripts, props, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, long sturdy rope (ski rope, laundry line, etc.), Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Matthew 18:20	
	Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treats—Small piece of strong rope, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Chosen People," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Fiery Furnace Snack	Cinnamon candy or any spicy snack, drinks, napkins, plates, cups
	Up to 10	Game: Idol Bowling	Plastic bottles (8-24 oz), permanent markers, medium-size soft ball, optional: gold paint, sand
	Up to 15	Craft: "God's Music" Wind Chimes	Chimes*, sturdy paper cup, heavy string, scissors, hole puncher, crayons or markers or paint
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Praise Tag	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Four Praise Corners	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, paper, marker
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: Where is the hottest place you have ever been?

GAME: MUSICAL FIERY FURNACE

Purpose: In this version of musical chairs, children will be introduced to Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and the fiery furnace.

Supplies: Chairs, red and orange cloth or paper, CD player, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Chosen People"

Prepare: Place the chairs, seats facing outward, in a circle to form the walls of the furnace. (The number of chairs should be one less than the number of children.) Place the red and orange cloth or paper in the center of the circle of chairs to look like flames in a furnace.

Option: Encourage children to sing the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Chosen People," as they play. After the game, tell children that the king did not want people to declare God's praises as our Bible Memory Verse says. Instead, he wanted everyone to worship his golden idol.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle around the outside of the chairs.
2. Play the music.
3. While the music is playing, children walk in a circle around the chairs.
4. Stop the music. Each child sits down in a chair as fast as possible.
5. The child without a chair sits in the furnace for the rest of the game.
6. To encourage continued participation, assign tasks to the children in the furnace. They can help remove chairs, start and stop the music or help identify which child sits down first, if a tie occurs.
7. Remove a chair from the circle and play again.
8. Continue playing until only one child is left in the game.

Today, we will read from the prophet Daniel's book in the Bible. Daniel had three friends: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Let's say those names together. (Take a moment to help the children learn to pronounce the names of Daniel's friends: Shadrach (shad-rack), Meshach (me-shack), Abednego (ah-bed-neh-go).)

Daniel and his three friends were Jews and they had been captured by the king of Babylon. The king didn't believe in God. He worshiped idols instead. Let's read Daniel's story about how his three friends ended up in a fiery furnace. It was much hotter than the one in our game! Check out what the three men were ordered to do each time music played.



The God who is Lord of all

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Today, we worship the God who is Lord of all. He is greater than anything in all of creation. He is more important than any idol. God has chosen all who believe in His Son to be His people. He wants us to put Him first and treat Him as the most important one in our lives.



In the Ten Commandments, God told us to put no other gods before Him. He told us not to bow down or worship idols. When we obey these commandments from God, we are worshiping Him. As a people belonging to God, let's show Him how important He is to us by giving our offerings to the church. Sing: "At the Name of Jesus" as the offering is collected.



Let's read in Isaiah where God tells us who He is and what He has done. Read Isaiah 43:1-2.

In our Bible Memory Verse, God tells us who we are and what we are to do as His witnesses. Sing the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Chosen People." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on putting God first as the one true God.



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 44.



God protects Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Ezekiel was a prophet to those who had been captured and taken to Babylon. What message did Ezekiel give them about a new heart? (God would give them a new heart and a new spirit.) **Today, we will discover what the king of Babylon did to three of the captives.** If a map is available, point to Ancient Babylon. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

The king of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar, (neb-uk-ad-nez-zar) made a giant golden statue that was 90 feet high. He ordered everyone in Babylon to worship it whenever the music played. Many prophets had already warned God's people not to worship idols. Some astrologers told the king that three of the captives from Judah named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship the idol. Let's see what the king did.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Daniel 3:12-29; 4:3. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Daniel 3:28.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

READERS' THEATRE: **Instead of reading our Bible passage, let's act out our Bible story.** Distribute the Readers' Theatre scripts to the children, assign roles, and hand out props. Read and act out the Bible story from Daniel 3.

OPTIONAL: The Readers' Theatre script directly quotes the Bible Story Scripture passages. If you choose to omit the Readers' Theatre, read the information and passages below. **God's people knew of God's WARNING about idol worship.** Read Daniel 3:12-29. **The men made the CHOICE to trust God. Check out God's PROMISE about a kingdom where everyone puts God first.** Read Daniel 4:3.



The presence of God and other believers

THE WAY

Additional Supplies: Long, sturdy rope (ski rope, laundry line, etc.)

Why did the king order the three men to be tied up and thrown into the fire? (They refused to worship his golden idol.) **Why do you think they refused to obey the king even though they knew the punishment was death?** (Children respond.) **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?** (Children respond.) **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! It's a choice we must make each day.**

An idol is anything we treat as more important to us 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?** (Children respond.) **Do you have a friend who believes in God that can help you to put Him first?** (Children respond.)

Let's gather in a circle. 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. **Look around this circle. 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?** (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

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?** (Children respond.) **Some think it was Jesus, and some think it was an angel. Either way, the Lord showed everyone He was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire. 600 years later, Jesus explained what happens when we come together as His followers.**



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Matthew 18:20. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Matthew 18:20.

The men were thrown into the fiery furnace, because they believed in the name of the one true God. 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 WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a piece of strong rope. Tell your family how the strongest soldiers tied up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Tell them how the three men were tied with ropes and thrown into the fiery furnace, but no one was burned. Share the whole story with them!

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 44 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of four men walking inside the fiery furnace without being burned.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Chosen People," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: FIERY FURNACE SNACK

Purpose: Children will eat a spicy snack while personally connecting with the story.

Snack Suggestion: Cinnamon candy or any spicy snack

Why did the king have Daniel's friends tied up and thrown into the furnace? (They would not worship his idol.) **Who was with them in the furnace?** (God.) **How hot was the furnace?** (It was so hot that the flames killed the soldiers who threw the three men into the fire.) **Let's eat a hot and spicy snack!**

Directions:

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What do you think the king's idol looked like?"**

GAME: IDOL BOWLING

Purpose: For children to consider what may be idols in their lives and then to choose to put God first.

Supplies: Plastic bottles (8-24 oz), permanent markers, medium-size soft ball, optional: gold paint, sand

Optional: Fill each bottle with about an inch of sand to help keep it steady. Spray the plastic bottles with gold paint.

What did the king worship? (An idol.) **Do we have idols, too?** (Yes.) **What is an idol?** (Anything we treat as more important to us than God.) **Let's write some of our idols on these bowling pins. Then, we will knock them down to show we are putting God first instead of the idols!**

Directions:

1. Give a bottle "bowling pin" and marker to each child.
2. Help the children consider some things they may be putting before God in their lives. Examples: games (would rather play games than go to church), money (would rather spend all their allowance on themselves instead of tithing to God).
3. Each child writes or draws an idol on a bowling pin.
4. Arrange the bowling pins in a group at one end of the play area. Have the children line up several feet away.
5. First child in line says, **"I choose to put God first."** Child rolls the ball to knock down the bowling pins. Child gets a second turn to knock down more pins.
6. Reset the bowling pins.
7. Play until each child has taken two turns.

Limited Space? Children draw and cut out what they think the king's idol looked like from gold or yellow paper. Children write or draw their own idols on their cutouts. Finally, each child destroys their idols by ripping them up over a bucket or bin representing the fiery furnace.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: "GOD'S MUSIC" WIND CHIMES

Purpose: To create wind chimes to remind children to put God first.

Supplies: Chimes*, sturdy paper cup, heavy string, scissors, hole puncher, crayons or markers or paint

Teacher Tips: Use acrylic paint if the surface of your paper cup is glossy or waxy. Leave time for paint to dry. Purchase chimes from a craft store, or have children string old utensils, strips of soda cans, wood, metal or plastic beads, bells, or any other items that will make noise when they touch.

What did the king want everyone to worship? (His golden idol.) **How did the people know when to bow down to the idol?** (When they heard music.) **What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do when they heard the music?** (Refused to bow down.) **They knew they should only worship the one true God. We should always put God first. Let's make wind chimes. When you hear the wind chime music, let it help you remember to put God first.**

Directions:

1. Punch 4 evenly-spaced holes around the rim of the cup.
2. Color or paint the cup.
3. Use scissors to punch a small hole in the bottom of the cup.
4. Cut 4 12-inch lengths of string. Cut a 5th string that is 14-inches long.
5. Turn the cup upside down.
6. Tie each of the four 12-inch pieces of string through a different hole on the rim of the cup.
7. Thread the 14-inch piece of string through the hole in the cup and loop to create a hanger above the cup.
8. Thread and secure chimes, beads, bells, or other provided materials onto the four strings.
9. Hang your wind chime in a breezy place.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

GAME: PRAISE TAG

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster

Read the Bible Memory Verse. **In our Bible Memory Verse, Peter gives four titles to describe people who believe in Jesus. What are they?** (A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people belonging to God.) **What is the reason given for why God has chosen people to belong to Him?** (So we may declare His praises.) **The verse says God brought us out of darkness, which we call sin, and into His light, which is life with the Holy Spirit living in our hearts and leading us to do things God's way. When we have Jesus in our hearts, we want to praise God! Let's declare our praise to Him while we play Praise Tag!**

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be "It."
2. On your signal, "It" chases the other children and attempts to tag (touch) one of them.
3. If "It" successfully tags another child, then the tagged child becomes the new "It."
4. Children can be safe from being tagged for 10 seconds by shouting a sentence of praise to God: **"I praise God for a truth about who God is or what He has done."** The child then sits and counts aloud to 10. Children may do this as often as they like. You may choose to require children think of a new praise each time.

Limited space? Children sit in a circle. "It" spins a spinner from any board game (or make your own using a paper plate, a paper fastener, and a straw). The child the arrow points to shouts a praise sentence to God. That child becomes the new "It" and spins the arrow. Play until each child has at least one turn shouting praise to God. To add difficulty, require the praises be related to a specific topic such as the previous week's Bible story, creation, family, etc.

GAME: FOUR PRAISE CORNERS

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, tape, four signs titled as follows: Chosen People, Royal Priesthood, Holy Nation, People Belonging to God

Prepare: Post one of the four signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

Directions:

1. Point out the four corners as the four titles Peter gave to describe people who believe in Jesus.
2. Choose a Caller to stand in the middle of the room, close his or her eyes, and count aloud to 10.
3. The other children rush to stand in a corner before the Caller says, "10."
4. The Caller keeps his or her eyes closed and calls out a corner name.
5. The children in that corner recite the Bible Memory Verse together. As needed, they may read from the Bible Memory Verse poster.
6. Choose another Caller and play again. Allow all the children to remain in the game.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Elijah through Malachi. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) Habakkuk asked God questions. God told him to write the answers down and send them to the people. Habakkuk asked God why He allowed wrongdoing to go unpunished. He decided that even though times were hard, he would rejoice in the Lord. God said, “The righteous will live by faith.” What does that mean to you? (To trust God no matter what.)

Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) Ezekiel was a priest and prophet who lived in Babylon with the other Israelites who had been taken captive from their homes in Israel and forced to live and work in Babylon. What do you remember about the vision God gave Ezekiel about the valley of dry bones? (Children respond.) The vision of the dry bones gave us a picture of God’s gift of new life. What did God promise Ezekiel about our hearts? (To anyone who turns to Him, He promises to give a new heart and to put His Holy Spirit in us.)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) King Nebuchadnezzar ordered everyone in Babylon to worship his golden statue. What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they refused to worship this idol? (They were thrown into the fire.) What did the king see in the fire? (Four men walking around unharmed and untied.) After this miracle, the king praised the one true God.

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah through Malachi:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 cards for Prophets & Promises Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Elijah – Malachi: Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-2 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 7-2 B.C.)