



Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace

Lesson Aim: To know God is with you wherever you go.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Is Lord of All

THE WORD

Bible Story: Daniel 3:12-21, 24-28

What He Has Done: God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6

Unit 9: The Prophets and God's Sovereignty			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	Ezekiel and the Sheep, Ezekiel 34:6, 11-15, 31	God showed Ezekiel that we are like sheep and He is the shepherd.	To know God will care for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep.
44	Ezekiel and the River, Ezekiel 47:1-12	God gave Ezekiel a vision of a river flowing out of the temple.	To know life and growth come from God.
45	Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace, Daniel 3:12-21, 24-28	God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace.	To know God is with you wherever you go.
46	Daniel and the Lions' Den, Daniel 6:14-23, 25-27	God kept Daniel safe from the lions.	To know God keeps us safe.
47	Daniel's Dream About Heaven, Daniel 7:1, 13-14	God gave Daniel a dream about Jesus' return.	To know we will see Jesus coming with the clouds one day.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for guiding the children in their choices. Fill them with Your Spirit so they can make choices that are right in Your eyes. Give them courage to choose Your way. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Be sure to connect each activity with the lesson's aim. Take time before, during, or after each activity to help the children understand how it relates to the lesson. Review the lesson aim with them often. Ask them repeatedly what they are supposed to know (ie. Who is with you wherever you go? (God.)).



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a cross
		Coloring Center: The Fiery Furnace	Coloring pages of a Daniel's friends and the fiery furnace, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: God Is with You	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Block and Car Center: Wherever You Go	Blocks, cars
	Bible Memory Verse Center: Bubbling Praise	Bubbles, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"	
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Let Everything That Has Breath" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Lift Up My Eyes" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Sing Praises" "The Lord Is Faithful"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 9, Lesson 45
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Daniel 3:12-21, 24-28	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Daniel 3:25 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, small blanket
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Fiery Furnace	Sturdy paper, red paper (or tissue paper), 2 wooden craft sticks, tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Safe in the Furnace	None
		Game: "God Is with You" Ball Roll	Soft ball for rolling
		Snack: Fiery Furnace Food	Any red snack or square cracker
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 9, Lesson 45
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Daniel 3:12-21, 24-28	None
	Up to 10	Game: Praise Balloon	Balloon
	Up to 10	Game: Instrument Praise	Children's musical instruments, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story assuring children of God's presence

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God who is Lord of all

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a stamp or sticker of a cross. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a cross help you remember God is with you wherever you go.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: THE FIERY FURNACE

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of a Daniel's friends and the fiery furnace, crayons

DO

Children color the picture while talking about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

In our story today, we will hear about a king who was angry with three friends of Daniel because they would only pray to God. Let's say their names together: Shadrach (Shad-rack), Meshach (Meshack), and Abednego (Ah-bed-neh-go). The king had them thrown in a fiery furnace. A furnace is like a big fireplace. But the three friends were not afraid because they knew God was with them. God is with you, too, no matter where you go.

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: GOD IS WITH YOU

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about their fears and God's presence. Encourage children to make a cross with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

Who can tell me something you are afraid of? (Children respond.) **What do you do when you are afraid?** (Children respond.) **Did you know God is always with you?** (Children respond.) **When you are afraid, remember God is with always with you. Let's tell each other.** Have the children take turns saying to the person next to them, **"God is with you."**

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BLOCK AND CAR CENTER: WHEREVER YOU GO

SUPPLIES

Blocks, cars

DO

Children build various locations they like to go with the blocks.

TALK ABOUT

Did you know God is with you wherever you go? (Children respond.) **He is!** Name of child, **where do you like to go?** (Child responds.) **God is with you when you are at (the) name of location.** **Can you build a/the name of location with the blocks? When it is built, you can pretend to travel there.** Repeat the questions for any child who is at this center.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CENTER: BUBBLING PRAISE

SUPPLIES

Bubbles, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"

DO

Play the Bible Memory Verse Song and blow bubbles for the children to keep in the air with their breath.

TALK ABOUT

Our Bible Memory Verse says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Remember, "Lord" is one of God's special names. The Lord wants everything that breathes to praise Him. Let's feel ourselves breathing. Put your hands on your stomach as you breathe in and out. We can also use our breath to keep bubbles in the air. Demonstrate by blowing bubbles and keeping them in the air by blowing on them. **Let's listen to our Bible Memory Verse Song as we play.** Encourage the children to blow on the bubbles you make.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"Let everything	(everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.
that has breath	(breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.
praise	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
the Lord."	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
Psalms 150:6	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The God who is Lord of all

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments, ribbon

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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



I'm so glad you are here today. Did you know God is always with you? (Children respond.) **No matter where you are or what you are doing, God is always with you. Let's pray and thank Him for that.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, Thank You for taking care of us wherever we go. Amen.**



God is always watching over you. Sing: "I Lift Up My Eyes." Optional: Have the children walk in a circle while helpers hold the ribbon for the children to walk under. Periodically, move the height of the ribbon higher and lower during the song.

God is with us right now. He watches over us and hears us when we sing to Him. Let's thank Him for being with us by giving our offering to His church. Sing: "Give Thanks to the Lord" while collecting the offering.



In Bible times, there were three friends who loved God. Their names are fun to say: Shadrach (Shad-rack), **Meshach** (Me-shack), **and Abednego** (Ah-bed-neh-go). Teach the children to pronounce the names and practice them together. **Let's find out if Delbert and Lello know about these three friends.** Perform The Adventures of Delbert and Lello puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 45.



God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. It was a miracle they were not hurt in the fire. This miracle showed everyone God was with the three friends. God is always with us and He is the Lord over everything—including fire! Let's praise Him! Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath."



Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse together. Practice a few times with the motions.

"Let everything	(everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.
that has breath	(breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.
praise	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
the Lord."	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
Psalm 150:6	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



God is with the three friends

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Daniel 3:25, picture of the Bible story, small blanket

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Today, I brought this soft blanket with me. Give each child a chance to feel it. **I like to snuggle up in a blanket like this and feel warm and safe. Do you have a blanket, a doll, or a stuffed animal that you hold close when you are afraid?** (Children respond.) **What else could you do when you are afraid?** (Children respond.)

It's good to remember God is always with us. We can pray and know He hears our prayers. In Bible times, there were three friends who knew God was always with them. Their names are fun to say: Shadrach (Shad-rack), Meshach (Me-shack), and Abednego (Ah-bed-neh-go). Let's listen to their story. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Daniel 3:25.



WATCH THE WORD: DANIEL 3:12-21, 24-28

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **An angry king sent for three good men,**
- **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.**
- **The king said, "Tie them up with rope;**
- **In the fiery furnace they must go!"**

- **Then, the king saw four men walking in the fire.**
- **They were not hurt—it's true!**
- **For God was with them in the fire,**
- **And God is with you, too.**

- **The king called them out of the furnace,**
- **There were no burns on their ropes or clothes.**
- **The king knew God saved all three men,**
- **And now everybody knows!**

Who was with the men? (God.) Who is with you wherever you go? (God.)



God is with you

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: FIERY FURNACE

Purpose: To remind the children of the story of Daniel's three friends in the furnace.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, red paper (or tissue paper), 2 wooden craft sticks, tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: On a half sheet of sturdy paper, print:

The Fiery Furnace Daniel 3:12-21, 24-28

Fold the paper into thirds so it can stand up and be the furnace. From sturdy paper, draw and cut out the combined shape of three men standing together. From sturdy paper, draw and cut out a fourth man. From red paper, draw and cut out a flame shape.

Optional: Draw brick shapes on the sheet of paper that makes the furnace. Cut 1-inch squares of red, orange, or yellow tissue paper for children to glue to the flame.

Directions:

1. **A furnace is like a large oven. The fire in the furnace would have been very hot!** Children tape the flames onto the furnace.
2. **The three friends were put in the fiery furnace together.** Children color the cut out of Daniel's three friends and attach them to a craft stick to make a puppet.
3. **God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace.** Children color the cut out of the fourth man and attach him to a craft stick to make a puppet.
4. Act out the story as noted in the Craft Discussion below.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they went to see the king? (God.) They knew God was with them no matter what happened.**
- **What did the king do with the three men? (He put them in the fiery furnace.) Put your three friends puppet in your fiery furnace.** Children stand up the furnace and hold the three friends puppet in front of the furnace.
- **Who was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace? (God, Jesus, an angel, etc.) Put your other puppet into the fiery furnace with the friends.** Children hold the fourth man puppet in front of the furnace next to the three friends puppet.
- **Did the fire hurt Daniel's friends? (No.) Take everyone out of the fiery furnace.** Children move both puppets away from the furnace. **Look! God kept them safe! And all the people and the king knew it was God who kept them safe.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: SAFE IN THE FURNACE

Purpose: To remind children that God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Supplies: None

Where did the king put Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? (In the furnace.) Were they hurt? (No!) They were safe because God was with them!

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle holding hands.
2. Choose three children to stand in the middle of the circle as Daniel's friends.
3. Sing the following verses to "The Farmer in the Dell."

**God kept them safe. God kept them safe.
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
God kept them safe.**

**Wherever you may go. Whatever you may do.
God will be with you every day.
This we know is true!**

4. Play again choosing different children to stand in the middle. Play several times or until everyone has had a chance to stand in the middle.

GAME: "GOD IS WITH YOU" BALL ROLL

Purpose: Children will realize God is with them, just as He was with Daniel's friends in the furnace.

Supplies: Soft ball for rolling

Did God keep Daniel's friends safe? (Yes.) God was with them in the fiery furnace and He did not let the fire burn them. Daniel's friends may have been afraid, but they knew God was with them. When you are afraid, God is with you, too.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Roll the ball to a child.
3. Ask that child to name one thing that makes him or her feel afraid.
4. Child's name, **God is with you when you are afraid of** child's fear.
5. Children say, "**God is with you,**" to the child.
6. That child rolls the ball to another child.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 until each child has a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: FIERY FURNACE FOOD

Purpose: Children will eat a snack as they discuss how God is with them wherever they go.

Snack Suggestion: Any red snack or square cracker

Red snack introduction: This red snack reminds me of the hot, fiery furnace from our story.

Square cracker introduction: In Bible times, furnaces were sometimes built of bricks. Our snack reminds me of the bricks. Bricks are stacked together to make walls. If you lay them next to each other on your napkin, you can make a brick wall.

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the furnace. Did they have to worry?** (No.) **Why not?** (God was with them!)
 - **When you are afraid, do you need to worry?** (No.) **God is with you, too.**
 - **When you are in a scary place, do you need to worry?** (No.) **God is always with you.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"Let everything	(everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.
that has breath	(breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.
praise	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
the Lord."	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
Psalm 150:6	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: DANIEL 3:12-21, 24-28

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **An angry king sent for three good men,** (Hold up three fingers.)
- **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.** (Point to each of the three fingers.)
- **The king said, “Tie them up with rope;** (Point, as if giving an order.)
- **In the fiery furnace they must go!”** (Fold arms, as if angry.)

- **Then, the king saw four men in the fire.** (Hold up four fingers.)
- **They were not hurt—it’s true!** (Thumbs up.)
- **For God was with them in the fire,** (Point up to heaven.)
- **And God is with you, too.** (Point to another person.)

- **The king called them out of the furnace,** (Cup hands at mouth, as if shouting.)
- **There were no burns on their ropes or clothes.** (Point to hands and clothes.)
- **The king knew God had saved all three,** (Point up to heaven.)
- **And now everybody knows!** (Clap hands.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” Psalm 150:6

GAME: PRAISE BALLOON

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Balloon

Hold your hand in front of your mouth and blow on it. Do you feel your breath? (Yes!) We can use our breath to put air into balloons. Inflate a balloon with your breath and knot it closed. The children can pretend to blow up imaginary balloons as they watch you. **We can also use our breath to praise the Lord. Lord is a special name we use for God. When I toss the balloon toward you, I want you to bop it (or catch it) and say, “I praise the Lord.”**

Directions:

1. Have children stand in a circle.
2. Choose a child. As you toss the balloon toward the child, say **“Let name of child praise the Lord.”**
3. When the child bops or catches the balloon, lead them in saying, **“I praise the Lord.”**
4. Play until every child has had a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: INSTRUMENT PRAISE

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

Supplies: Children's musical instruments, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"

Teacher Tips: Create your own instruments by using two metal pot lids for cymbals, a wooden spoon and metal pot for a drum, or fill a container with a lid with dried beans or rice for a shaker. Children can also keep the rhythm by tapping two sticks together. **No Instruments Option:** Instead of using instruments, assign each child a different animal. Lead children in praising the Lord with the sound of each animal: **Let every name of an animal that has breath praise the Lord.** Children respond by making the sound of that animal.

The Lord wants everyone in the world to praise Him. Can you praise the Lord? (Children respond.)
When you hear the name of your instrument, play it to praise the Lord.

Directions:

1. Children repeat the Bible Memory Verse after you, one word at a time.
2. Give an instrument to each child. Be sure children know the name of the instruments.
3. **All that have name of an instrument praise the Lord.** Children with that instrument play.
4. Repeat step 3 until each child has played an instrument to praise the Lord.
5. Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory verse Song. Have the children praise the Lord together by marching and playing their instruments while they sing along.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story assuring children of God's presence.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 9, Lesson 45: Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace

PONDER! God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:12-21, 24-28). Did the fire hurt the three friends? (No.) Who was with them? (God!)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for always being with us. When we are afraid, help us remember You are with us. Amen."

PLAY! Hold hands, walk in a circle, and sing the verse below to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."
Wherever you may go. Whatever you may do.
God will be with you every day. This we know is true!

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Let everything (everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.
that has breath (breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.
praise The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
the Lord." (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

Psalm 150:6 Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.