



# 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.

## THE WAY

**Whisper Verse:** "God is with you."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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

<b>Unit 9: The Prophets and God's Sovereignty</b>			
	<b>Bible Story</b>	<b>What He Has Done</b>	<b>Lesson Aim</b>
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."



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a cross
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "God is with you."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Let Everything That Has Breath" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Be Still and Know" "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Am with You" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" "We Love"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 45
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Daniel 3:12-21, 24-28	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Daniel 3:25 Visual: A piece of rope
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Fiery Furnace	Sturdy paper, red paper (or tissue paper), 2 wooden craft sticks, tape, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> Musical Chairs Furnace	Chairs or mats, red and yellow cloth or paper, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"
		<b>Game:</b> "God Is with You" Ball Roll	Soft ball for rolling
		<b>Snack:</b> Fiery Furnace Snack	Cinnamon-flavored candy or square cracker
	<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None	
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 9, Lesson 45 Color This Story: "Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Daniel 3:12-21, 24-28	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Praise Balloon Bop	Balloon
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Instrument Praise	Assorted children's musical instruments, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story assuring children of God's presence

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



## God is with you **THE 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 cross. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a cross help you remember God is with you wherever you go. Today's Whisper Verse is "God is with you."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.\***

### **SIGN LANGUAGE: "God is with you."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:**

- "God"** Using a "b" hand with palm facing left, the right hand starts slightly above the forehead, then moves in a backward-downward arc, ending in front of the upper chest.
- "(is) with"** Make a fist with each hand. Create the letter "A" hand shape with each hand by placing the thumb on the top of the index finger of each closed fist. Bring both fists together in front of the body so the second knuckles of each fist are together.
- "you."** The index finger of the right hand points forward as the arm moves forward from body at waist level.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

**\*Today's Whisper Verse:** "God is with you," Genesis 21:22a. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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



**It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who is Lord of all. That means He is the one in control of everything in heaven and on earth. He is with us and watches over us wherever we go. That is today's Whisper Verse. Let's try it together.** Review the Whisper Verse: “God is with you.” Include sign language. **Today's Whisper Verse reminds me of a song about how God is with us and watches over us everywhere we go!** Sing: “I Am with You.”

**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. **The three friends knew God was always with them. When they were put in a fiery furnace, God was with them there, too. He saved them from being hurt in the fire.** Sing: “He Is Mighty to Save.”



**God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 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 is with us and He is the Lord over everything—including fire! Let's praise Him for the way He shows us He is with us!** Sing: “Let Everything That Has Breath.”



God is with three friends

## THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned **God gives life to everyone and everything. Today, we will hear how God is with you wherever you go.** 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 points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a rope. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture. The names in this story are pronounced Shadrach (Shad-rack), Meshach (Me-shack), and Abednego (Ah-bed-neh-go).

- **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!**



**A furnace is like a large oven. Three men were put into the fiery furnace. When the king looked inside, how many men did he see walking safely in the fire? (Four.)**

**Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Daniel 3:25 from the teacher's Bible.

**Some say the fourth man was an angel or Jesus. Whoever he was, he showed us God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego wherever they went. Who is with you wherever you go? (God.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "God is with you."** Include the sign language or hand motions.



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 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.

#### **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.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **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.
- **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. **Who was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace?** (God, Jesus, an angel, etc.)
- **That reminds me of our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions: "God is with you."
- **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!**

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: MUSICAL CHAIRS FURNACE**

**Purpose:** This version of musical chairs is to remind children God was with Daniel's friends in the fire.

**Supplies:** Chairs or mats, red and yellow cloth or paper, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"

**Prepare:** Place one chair per child, minus two, in a circle facing outwards for the furnace. Decorate the middle of the furnace with red and yellow cloth or paper to look like flames.

**Where did the king put Daniel's friends?** (In the fiery furnace.) **Did the fire hurt them?** (No.) **They were safe because God was with them!**

### **Directions:**

1. Choose a child to stand in the middle of the circle of chairs (The furnace).
2. The rest of the children stand around the outside of the chairs. There should be one less chair than the number of children standing outside the chairs.
3. Say to the child in the furnace, **"You are in the fiery furnace, just like Daniel's friends, but you are safe because God is with you!"** All the children say and sign, **"God is with you."**
4. Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song. The children walk in a circle around the chairs.
5. Stop the music. Children race to sit in a chair.
6. One child will be left without a chair. That child trades places with the child in the furnace.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 as many times as you like.

## **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 and sign the Whisper Verse, **"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 SNACK**

**Purpose:** Children will eat “hot” candy as they discuss how God is with them wherever they go.

**Snack Suggestion:** Cinnamon-flavored candy or square cracker

**Candy introduction:** This cinnamon-flavored candy is spicy hot. It reminds me of the hot, fiery furnace.

**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 snack and drink.
2. **Let’s sing the “Blessing Song.”** Sing to the tune of “Frere Jacques” or other 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. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: “God is with you.”
  - **Daniel’s friends were thrown into the fiery 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.**



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let’s fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let’s pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your “Fiery Furnace” craft. Tell someone God was in the fiery furnace with Daniel’s friends.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God is with you wherever you go.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** “Daniel’s Friends and the Fiery Furnace.” Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, “Let Everything That Has Breath,” as the children color.





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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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.** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
  
- **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 BOP**

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

**Supplies:** Balloon

**The Lord wants everything that breathes to praise Him. Every animal has breath. Let's see how many animals we can name.** Children name several animals. **Let's play a game with this balloon. Each time you bop the balloon, say the name of an animal who can praise the Lord!**

**Directions:**

1. Have children stand in a circle.
2. **We can use our breath to put air into balloons.** Inflate the balloon with your breath. Knot the end as a seal. The children can pretend to blow up imaginary balloons as they watch you.
3. As you toss the balloon into the air, say the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.
4. Children take turns bopping the balloon as they say the name of an animal that has breath to praise the Lord.
5. Play as long as you like.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: INSTRUMENT PRAISE**

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

**Supplies:** Assorted 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 hit two sticks together and keep the rhythm. **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!** Read Daniel 3:12-21, 24-28 with your family. Daniel wrote this story about his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. What did the king want them to do? What did the king do when they would not bow down to his statue? Did the fire hurt them? Who was with them in the fiery furnace? God is always with you, too!

**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!** "Safe in the Furnace!" Pile red and yellow cloth in the center of the room to create a furnace. Play your favorite music. While the music plays, everyone moves around the room. When the music stops, everyone stands in the pretend furnace. Talk about how God was with Daniel's friends. He kept them safe. What are you afraid of? Remember, God is always with you!

### **Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse:**

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