



Furnace of Fire – God is With Us

Daniel 3

God Statement: God is With Us

KEY VERSE: "You will pass through deep waters. But I will be with you. You will pass through the rivers. But their waters will not sweep over you. You will walk through fire. But you will not be burned. The flames will not harm you."
(Isaiah 43:2, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God is With Us!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is with us!

SAY: Have you ever been afraid before or felt nervous about something? **Let kids respond.** Sometimes when we feel afraid or nervous, it can feel lonely. Have you ever felt lonely before? **Let a few kids respond.** It can feel sad when we are alone!

Do you know who is with us ALL of the time? **Let kids respond – Jesus/God!** That's right! God is always with us. We don't have to feel afraid or sad, because God is with us. He is there to comfort us and He is there with us through everything that we go through. The good things and the hard things! Today, we are going to learn a special story about three people who trusted God and knew that He was with them! First, let's make a special craft.

MAKE: Furnace of Fire Paper Bag Craft

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Supplies: small paper bag with circle cut out, stick people, fire cut out, markers, glue

Directions: Pass out one people on a stick to each child. Have them color the people and the background. Then give them the paper bag to decorate. Have them glue the fire cut out on the front inside circle. When they place the stick people inside the bag, it will look like people in a furnace, being protected!

SAY: I wonder what we are learning about today! We get to make a special craft. It's a furnace, with people standing inside the fire. But look...they are untouched by the fire and they are protected! God protected them and kept them safe. I can't wait to learn more about this special lesson today!



LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

****Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.****

***"You will pass through deep waters. But I will be with you. You will pass through the rivers. But their waters will not sweep over you. You will walk through fire. But you will not be burned. The flames will not harm you."
(Isaiah 43:2, NIRV)***

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Same God
- Look What God Has Done
- Closing: Rescuer

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: *Furnace of Fire – God is With Us*

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

DO: Fiery Furnace Cards

Supplies: wire board station, Fiery Furnace Card, (blank on one side), plastic fork, spoon, cup, pencil

SAY: Look at these four items I have here (a spoon, fork, cup, and a pencil). Which of the items don't belong in this group? Now look at this group of items (paper, pen, ruler, and a toy). Which of the items don't belong? Which is the odd one? Have you ever felt like you were the odd one in a group of people?

We saw in our story that there were three young Jewish men who worshipped God and were made to lead in the country of Babylon. They very quickly became the odd ones in the land because they would not bow down to anyone but the one true God. The king was furious and threw them into a fiery furnace. God was with them in the furnace and protected them from the fire. They walked out of that furnace not burned at all.

After that the king said, “No one in the land could ever say anything bad against the Lord God.” God was with the men in the fire, and the men continued to believe. They knew that God had rescued them and would always be with them.

Place the Fiery Furnace Cards on the wire board.

Today, we’re going to write a note or draw a picture for someone to explain to them that God is with us. Before you write or draw, think about how God is always with you. Just like the men in the fiery furnace, we can tell people that there is only one God and He is with us. The God who created the world and the God who created you is the one true God. Think about someone in your life that you want to tell that there is one God who is always with you.

DIRECTIONS: Have the kids go to the wire board to get a Fiery Furnace Card. Have markers, crayons, and pens available for the kids. Encourage kids to write a note or draw a picture to show that there is one God who is always with them.

SAY: The three men in the furnace knew God. Do you know God? Do not forget to take your note or drawing home so you can give it to the person you wrote it to and tell them about God.

Let’s take a moment and thank God for opening our hearts to Him.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.******

OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.

******After Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Feeding Families

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

SAY: I have a silly question for you... what animal is black with a white stripe down its back and is known for being stinky? **Let the kids respond.** That's right! A skunk! How much do you think a skunk weighs? **Let the kids respond.** A skunk weighs 8lbs.

You're probably wondering, what does a skunk have to do with anything, huh? Did you know that a full Feeding Families bag weighs around 8lbs? That's the same size as a skunk. How about that!

Hold up a canned food item (if available). So, let's say that this can is one of the skunks' legs and **hold up a bag of rice (if available)** maybe this bag of rice is its body. Which food item do you think might weigh the same as its neck and head? **Let the kids respond.** Why is this important?

Well, this is important because this month our mission focus is Feeding Families. We are going to have a competition to see if we as a Kids Ministry can bring in a total of 2,000 lbs of food in support of Feeding Families' mission to help individuals who are experiencing food insecurities— this is when someone does not have access to the food needed to meet their basic needs. Did you know that a bison weighs 2,000 lbs?

As you leave here today, think about how you will help us reach our goal of 2,000 lbs, the size of a bison, to help those in need. Every week that you bring in a food item we will add a different animal to this scale (**point to the scale**) to represent the number of pounds we've collected.

So... who's ready to begin collecting food!?

Have a child come up and pray for Feeding Families.

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

SAY: *May you know that God is the one true God who is with you. May you know that God wants you to know Him and follow Him.*

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids 4-K:

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper. If children need a quick break before doing questions, have them do some jumping jacks or exercises before doing small group questions to help them refocus.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (God is with Us.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Daniel 3:26-30**
 - **Why did Meshack, Shadrack, and Abednego get thrown into the fire?** (They refused to worship the statue because they knew that God was the one true God.)
 - **Who was in the fire with Meshack, Shadrack, and Abednego?** (God)
 - **After King Nebuchadnezzar noticed God in the fire what did he say?** (No other God can save. God is worthy of praise.)
3. **Meshack, Shadrack, and Abednego didn't fear because they knew that God was with them. How do you see and know that God is with you?** Spend a couple of minutes discussing as a group. Be vulnerable with your students and share how God is working in your life and how you see God with you. Share with your students what this looks like.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

Older Kids 1st-4th:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (God is With Us.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Daniel 3:26-30**
 - **Why did Meshack, Shadrack, and Abednego get thrown into the fire?** (They refused to worship the statue because they knew that God was the one true God.)
 - **Who was in the fire with Meshack, Shadrack, and Abednego?** (God)
 - **After King Nebuchadnezzar noticed God in the fire what did he say?** (That no other God can save. God is worthy of praise.)
3. **Re-read verse 29**
 - **What does it mean that no other God can save people this way?**
 - **Why did God save them?** Spend a couple of minutes discussing as a group.
4. **Meshack, Shadrack, and Abednego didn't have fear because they knew that God was with them. How do you see and know that God is with you?** Spend a couple of minutes discussing as a group. Be vulnerable with your students and share how God is working in your life and how you see God with you. Share with your students what this looks like.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: Lesson Charades

Supplies: charade cards in ziplock bag

Directions: Have children split up into two teams. Pick one person from each team to come up to the front. Pull out one of the papers from the bag and show it to the two up front. Have them act out the word for their group/ team. Once the word is guessed, give that team a point. Have the two children sit back with their group and pick two more to come up front to do the next word. Repeat until all words have been used/guessed.

SAY: Today we got to learn about the furnace of fire! What an amazing story of God's protection. Let's play a game to remind us of this sweet story.

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.