



## God is With Us

Daniel 3

### God Statement: God is With Us

**“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-**

## CHECK-IN

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

***Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.***

*As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you’ve completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.*

*If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.*

*If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.*

*Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!*

## CONNECT WITH KIDS

*Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.*

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

**The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:**

When a child feels...*(most of the time)*

**SAFE:** physically and emotionally

**SEEN:** known and understood

**SOOTHED:** calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE**.

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

**(10 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: The Furnace of Fire**

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is with Us. He is always with us no matter what! We are going to learn about a fire and how God saved His people.

**SAY:** Have you seen a fire? Maybe when you go camping you have a campfire. Or maybe you have seen a tiny fire in a candle. Is a fire hot or cold? Yes, very hot! *Fan your face.* We're going to learn about a fire and how God saved His people.

### **MAKE: Furnace of Fire**

**Supplies:** glue sticks, black paper figures (4/child), pieces of colored tissue paper to represent fire, cardstock, crayons of red, orange, and yellow

#### **Directions:**

- Have the class sit at the table or work with 2-3 kids at a time.
- Give them each a paper and let them glue on some pieces of fire-colored paper.
- Give them 1 or 2 options of fire color crayons and let them color a fire, too.
- Then, glue on the paper figures.
- Write their name on the paper.

**SAY:** This is a really hot fire! We will hear more about this during our story time. The king made 3 men get in the hot fire. God was with them. God is always with us, too!

**While you are working with each child:**

- Let's count the people. 1,2,3,4 – there are the 3 men. Who is this 4<sup>th</sup> person? **Let children respond.** God! That's right!
- God is always with us.
- God is always with YOU.

## CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

*Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.*

*Try singing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."*

## LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

*After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton's house for Large Group time.*

### WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

**Offering – ask:** Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

## WORSHIP

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!*

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder**. Choose some songs to sing.

- God is with us all the time Ms. Mindy
- God is with us

## READ THE BIBLE STORY

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!*

This week, read about a Bible story from Daniel 3.

Read the Bible story below. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures and repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word of the story! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

### **THIS WEEK'S LESSON: The Furnace of Fire**

(Summarized from Daniel 3)

#### **BIBLE STORY:**

Bring Hamilton (the hedgehog puppet) out and allow the kids to interact with him before you begin the story (they can feel his soft fur, give him high fives, give him a hug, etc.). Use Hamilton to help keep the kids engaged while you share the story (he can do the hand motions, ask the kids questions, etc.).

***Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding his Bible.***

**SAY:** Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** That's your Bible, Hamilton! The Bible says that God is always with us! We're going to read a true story from the Bible today. There are some fancy names in our story today. Can you say "Nebuchadnezzar?!" (**Neh-buh-ka-nezzar**) (*Encourage kids to repeat each name.*) Wow! But that's not all. Try Shadrach (**Shad-rack**), Meshach (**Me-shack**), Abednego (**A-bed-ne-go**). Good work saying those fancy names! Let's listen to this true Bible story. ***Hamilton nods.***

***Share the story of The Furnace of Fire using the story cards in your folder.***

#### **SAY:**

- Nebuchadnezzar was the king.
- He thought he was special and wanted everyone to bow to a statue that he had made.
  - People should not bow to a statue! Say, "No way!" That's worshipping something, and we only worship GOD.
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were three men who believed in God and knew that they shouldn't worship a statue! They should only worship God.
- So they said, "No, we will not bow down to your statue."
- The King was so mad.
  - Show me your mad face!
- He threw those three guys in a hot, fiery furnace! AHHHH!
  - Let's fan our faces to cool off from the heat of the fire.
- Then, God did something very special.
- He sent someone who looked like an angel to save Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fire!
- It looked like there were four people in the fire, just like we saw in our craft we did earlier!
- He was with those men and He saved them from the fire! They weren't burned at all!
  - Let's clap and cheer for God! Everyone shout, yay!

- After he saw that God saved the men, Nebuchadnezzar believed in God, too!
  - Let's clap and cheer for God! Everyone shout, yay!
- God was with the three men, and God is with us.
- God is With Us!

### **SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)**

*This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.*

**SAY:** Today our God statement is God is With Us. We are going to say our God statement in fun ways to help us remember it.

- Have the kids say it in a fun voice.
- Have them say it in a whisper.
- Have them say it in a loud voice.

### **WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)**

*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.*

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, we learned that God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire because they only worshipped Him. He is the one true God.

What does worship mean? **(wait for responses)**

Worship means to show love.

How can we worship God and show Him we love Him? **(wait for responses)**

Yes, we can worship by singing and dancing to God, praying, and doing the things God wants us to do.

Let's worship God by singing and dancing right now.

*Turn on a worship song and dance. Use the instruments, if you wish.*

### **BLESSING (1 minute)**

*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:** Friends, may you always remember that God is with you. He's with you when you're having fun, when you're scared, and when you're mad. He is always with you.

## **RESPOND ACTIVITY**

**(10 minutes)**

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

## PLAY: God is With Us

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:**

- Have one child stand alone.
- One by one, call another child to join the first until all kids are together.

**SAY:** God is With Us!

We are never alone because God is with us. (First child) was alone. Then (second child) joined her. Then (third child), etc. We are friends and we are with (First child). We are with each other. God is here, too. We can't see Him but we know that God is with us.

## PLAY!

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!*

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

**Suggestions of activities:**

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

## CHECK-OUT

**(end of service)**

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"