



God is With Us – The Furnace of Fire

Daniel 1-3

God Statement: God is the One True God

KEY VERSE: “Remember what happened in the past. Think about what took place long ago. I am God”
(Isaiah 46:9a, 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 the One True God – God is With Us

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

SAY:

We’re starting a new series today, which means we have a new God Statement! God is the One True God. What do you think that means? **Let kids respond.** We’re going to learn why God is the One True God over the next couple of weeks. This week, we will see that one reason God is the One True God is that God is with us!

Let's play a little game to help you guess what our lesson is going to be on today... Are you ready? I need four volunteers (could be LITs who have been told ahead what to do).

Direct the volunteer to act out the parts of the Furnace of Fire story as follows:

- **One volunteer starts to bow down to "statue" while the other 3 look and shake their head no**
- **Then, leader takes other 3 volunteers and moves them to the corner like a "furnace" and they pretend like it's getting warmer as they get closer**
- **As the 3 sit in the "furnace" corner looking a little worried, the 4th person comes in and stands next to them**
- **They all walk out safely and show that they are unharmed**

If too hard for younger kids, leader can describe the scene as the volunteers act out until someone guesses: Fiery Furnace, Furnace of Fire, Shadrach/Meshach/Abednego, etc.

That's right, today we are going to learn about the Furnace of Fire, and how God was with the three men while they were in it!

MAKE:

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

Furnace of Fire Paper Activity

Supplies: one furnace cutout per child, 4-5 pieces of colored tissue papers (yellow, orange, and red) per child, markers, glue

Say: *Today we get to learn about a very special story, where God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! Have you heard this story before? God protects them and is always with them. He is always with us too! Let's start our lesson by make a craft about our story!*



Directions: Pass out one paper furnace scene cut out per child and 4-5 colored tissue paper pieces. Have the children crumple and glue the tissue paper to the fire in the furnace. Allow children to color their furnaces.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

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

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

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!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- When I Look
- Same God

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

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

**"Remember what happened in the past. Think about what took place long ago. I am God."
(Isaiah 46:9a, NIRV)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the "What's It" is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: FIRE/FURNACE

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Hmm... what do we have here? That’s right, it looks like **fire**! I wonder what that has to do with our lesson today. Do you remember a story in the Bible that involves fire? *Let kids respond.* Let’s find out! Do you know what time it is? It’s time for us to dive into God’s Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to 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: God is With Us – The Furnace of Fire

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 this time.

Supplies: key verse cards to be sent home in classrooms

God is the one true God! Who kept Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego safe in the fiery furnace? **Let kids respond – God!** Only God can do something as powerful as that. Who was in the furnace with them? **Let kids respond – God!** God was with the 3 men in the furnace of fire, and God is with us too. Did you know God is with us right now?

Sometimes, people or things around us might try to test us and test what we believe, just like when the king told Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to bow down to the statue. But, God is the one true God, and when we follow Him, we can trust Him to help us do the right thing. Have you ever had to make a choice between doing something you knew was bad or doing the right thing? ***Let a few kids share or have kids think to themselves.*** It can be hard to make the right choice, but when we remember that God is always with us, we can pray to Him anytime and anywhere and ask for help.

BE STILL & TALK TO GOD ACTIVITY:

We're going to take a few moments to quiet our minds and bodies and sit with God. Everyone find a quiet spot in the room to lay down and close your eyes. As you lay there, take a moment to talk to God. Whether you need to ask Him for help making a right choice, confess something you did wrong and ask forgiveness, or just listen to what He has to say, let's pause and remember that God is with us.

Turn on soft worship music in the background during this time. Encourage kids to lay for 1-2 minutes (or as long as possible). Then, softly say:

God is the one true God. He is with us wherever we go. When we go through hard things or have to make tough choices, God is right there next to us ready to help. We just have to talk to Him.

Let's sit back up. Did anyone have something they felt God telling them that they'd like to share?

Let a few kids share. Remind the kids that it is totally okay if they didn't feel like God said anything to them this time but encourage them to keep finding space to listen to God.

You will each get to take home a card with our key verse on it for this month. Find a special spot at home to put this card, and when you pass it, we want to challenge you to read it and try to memorize it! We can hide God's word in our hearts to help us remember that God is the one true God!

Close time in prayer.

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

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – ACTS 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.

Remind kids how one of our ongoing mission focuses is ACTs Feeding Families. Hold up a green Feeding Families bag or a food donation list to share about the important role families can play by providing food donations regularly to people right here in our own community.

OPTIONAL: Use the Feeding Families promo video provided in the PowerPoint to show kids the impact Feeding Families has.

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who receive food through 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.

May you remember that God is with you. He is the one true God and He loves you so much.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Daniel 1-3**
 - a. **What did King Nebuchadnezzar want the people to do?** (Worship the golden statue he had made.)
 - b. **Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worship the Kings Golden Statue? What happened to them?** (They did not! They were thrown into the furnace of fire!)
 - c. **Who protected them in the furnace?** (God!)
3. **God protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He protects us too and is always with us. Can you think of a time when you had to trust God?**

Close small group in prayer.

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: Following God's Word – Yes or No!

Supplies: none

Directions: Have kids stand up. When you say a question that is God’s way: kids jump up and down and point to the sky. If it’s not God’s way, have them make a crying face and say “no no no”.

1. A friend lied about another friend at school. Is this God’s way? (no no no)
2. Your parents asked you to clean your room and you played video games instead. Is this God’s way? (no no no)
3. You see a student alone at recess and you invite them to play with you and show them kindness. Is this God’s way? (God’s way!)
4. Your brother or sister hit you so you hit them back. Is this God’s way? (no no no)
5. You help your parents do some chores without them asking you to, so you can help them. Is this God’s way? (God’s way!)
6. Someone tells you that you have to stop reading your bible at school. Is this God’s way? (no no no)
7. You pray for others. Is this God’s way? (God’s way!)

Say: *God wants us to follow him. He wants us to be kind and to pray for others. When we choose to follow God, it won’t always be easy to do the right thing. But doing the right thing and following God, is always the best choice 😊*

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.