



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 46:9 NIRV

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 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, pieces of colored paper to represent fire, crayons of red, orange, and yellow*

Directions:

Have the class sit at the table or work with 2-3 at a time. Give them the pre-assembled furnace craft. 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. Write the name of the child along with the date and the location (Woodmen Kids) on the child's craft.

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.*

While you are working with each child:

- Let's count the people. 1,2,3,4 – God was with the 3 men.
- 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 (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, **go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.**

- *My God is so Big!*
- *God Can do Anything*

READ A BIBLE STORY

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

This week, read about a story about The Furnace of Fire below.

BIG IDEA:

God wants us to worship HIM! We should not worship anything else.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! 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!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: The Furnace of Fire

(Story provided below)

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

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

Say: Hamilton, I see you have your Bible today. The Bible says that God is always with us! He says to remember the things in the past. He is God! Let's hear about something that happened in the past. A long time ago. This story is in the Bible. It is true. We have some fancy names in our story today! Can you say "Nebuchadnezzar?!" (**Neh-buh-ka-nezzer**) (*Encourage kids to repeat each name.*) Wow! But that's not all. Try Shadrach (**Shad-rack**), Meshach (**Me-shack**), Abednego (**A-bed-knee-go**). Good work saying those fancy names!

Share about The Furnace of Fire:

- Nebuchadnezzar was the king. He thought he was pretty special and wanted everyone to bow to a statue of him.
 - Let's stand up and bow. (*bow from your waist.*) That was good bowing – but we should not bow to a statue! That's worshipping and we only worship GOD.
- Well, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego 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. (*fan your face.*)
- God did something very special! 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 3 men. And God is with us. God is always with us! And, Hamilton, God is with you, too. Are you going to read that story in your Bible now? Ok, see you next time. (***Put Hamilton back in his home.***)

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.

We are learning that “God is With Us!” (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

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.

Encourage class to sit quietly. Prepare by choosing a worship song on Plex.

Say: God is always with us. Sometimes we have fun. Sometimes we’re scared. Sometimes we’re mad. And, God is always with us. We worship Him. He is the one true God. How can we worship Him today? Let’s dance to a happy song to worship Him.

Turn on the worship song and lead the kids by swaying and twirling.

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 the One True God. He goes before you and has an amazing plan for you. May you know that He loves you so much! Amen!*

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Game: Follow the Leader

Supplies: none

Directions: *This would be a great activity for an LIT to lead.* Have the kids do things like hopping, running in place, turn around, touch nose. After each motion, say “Good obeying.” You can have them follow you around the room too. Continue until you or the kids lose interest.

Say: *Let’s practice our obeying. If I say to do something, you do it.*

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)!”