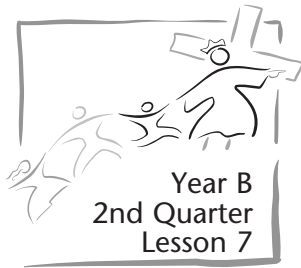


LESSON



The Fiery Furnace

WORSHIP

We are happy to worship God.

References

Daniel 3; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 503-513.

Memory Verse

"We will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that only God deserves their worship.

Feel a determination to obey God.

Respond by worshiping God with their obedience.

The Message



We worship God when we refuse to do wrong things.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Daniel's three friends will not bow down and worship the golden statue King Nebuchadnezzar has built. King Nebuchadnezzar becomes very angry and orders Daniel's three friends to be tied up and thrown into a fiery furnace. God protects them, and the fire doesn't burn them at all. The king sees four people in the furnace. Jesus has come to be with them in

the fire. The king sets the men free.

This is a lesson about worship.

Daniel's three friends chose to stand firm before the king and all the people. We worship God when we stand firm for the right regardless of circumstances.

Teacher Enrichment

"Not all had bowed the knee to the

SEVEN

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Musical Obedience</i> B. <i>Elemental Quiz</i>	device that can play music (CD, MP3, streaming, etc.), recorded music bottle of water, picture of a fire, inflated balloon
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 73. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	toy musical or rhythm instruments
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Teacher Says</i>	none
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Fiery Furnace</i>	fiery furnace pattern (see p. 143); paper; small orange, red, yellow cellophane or tissue pieces; crayons; glue

idolatrous symbol of human power. In the midst of the worshiping multitude there were three men who were firmly resolved not thus to dishonor the God of heaven. Their God was King of kings and Lord of lords; they would bow to none other" (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 506).

"But firmly the Hebrews testified to their allegiance to the God of heaven, and their faith in His power to deliver. The act of bowing to the image was understood by all to be an act of worship. Such homage they could render to God alone" (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 507).

"But the Lord did not forget His own. As His witnesses were cast into the furnace, the Savior revealed Himself to them in person, and together they walked in the midst of the fire. In the presence of the Lord of heat and cold, the flames lost their power to consume" (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 508, 509).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5. Also add a "fiery furnace" by using the dark sheet or material draped over chairs used for the "cave" in Lesson 3.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Musical Obedience

Arrange the chairs so that the children are sitting back to back, minus one chair. (If you have benches, mark them in some way, maybe with masking tape so that the children know how many of them can fit.) Say: **We are going to play musical chairs, but we're going to do it the opposite way. You walk around when the music stops, and sit down when you hear the music start.** When everyone except one child has found a seat, take away one chair or X out one spot on the bench. The child without a seat should sit outside the game area. Play several rounds of this. Some of the children may push and shove to get a space. Don't reprimand them.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How did it feel not to have a place to sit when the music started? What kind of feeling do you have when you are the only one who is left out of something or the only one doing something different? Do you want to do such things, as pushing and shoving, in order to be like everyone else?**

Say: **Our Bible story is about three friends who wouldn't bow down when they heard music start playing. Even though others were doing the wrong thing and they stood alone, they chose to do right. Today's message is:**



We worship God when we refuse to do wrong things.

You Need:

- device that can play music (CD, MP3, streaming, etc.)
- recorded music

B. Elemental Quiz

In advance, place a bottle of water, a picture of fire, and an inflated balloon where all can see. Say: **We are going to play a guessing game. The answers are outside, but they are also in this room. I'll give you clues, and I want you to look around and walk over to what you think I'm talking about. If you are near it, I will say "hot." If you are not, I will say "cold."** Call children's names before saying *hot* or *cold*.

You Need:

- bottle of water
- picture of a fire
- inflated balloon

I am wet and helpful when you are thirsty or dirty. You can play in me or sail on me. (water)

I am red, but sometimes I am blue, or yellow, or white. I keep you warm, but I can also burn you. (fire)

I can't be seen. I can only be felt. In winter I am cold; in summer I am hot. I make tree leaves move and make bubbles float. (air or wind)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you know who made all of these things? Right, God did. That's why we worship Him, because He made the earth and everything in it. Because of that, He is the only God we want to worship.**

Say: **Our Bible story is about three friends who were asked to worship a statue, but they said no. They did the right thing, even though everyone around them was doing wrong. Today's message is:**



We worship God when we refuse to do wrong things.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Making Music" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 220)

"Come Praise the Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 211)

"Jesus Helps Me Choose" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 304)

"Little Feet, Be Careful" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 307)

"Sad or Glad" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 271)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **We worship God when we give Him our offerings.**

Prayer

Demonstrate the different postures people use when praying to God: kneeling, sitting, standing. Say: **No matter how we pray to God, we worship God when we pray.** Offer a short prayer.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.



Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

You Need:

- toy musical or rhythm instruments

Divide the class into two groups, each with an adult helper. Assign the following, one to each group, and allow time for practice before telling the story.

When they hear:	The children will:
soldier(s)	march in place;
music	pretend to play music

Practice these before telling the story.

Read or tell the story.

King Nebuchadnezzar was very proud of himself. The gigantic golden statue he had built was finished and stood tall where everyone could see it. He had invited all the important people from his kingdom to come see it. He thought they would really like his statue and think he was a great king.

The next day all the important people, including Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came to see King Nebuchadnezzar's statue. Everyone stared at the big gold statue. Everyone, including Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, also stared at a big, dark cavelike building near the statue.

Soldiers [*march in place*] were building a big fire in it.

"Why are the **soldiers** [*march in place*] doing that?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego whispered to one another.

Nearby, King Nebuchadnezzar's

band was ready to play **music** [*play instruments*] when he gave the signal. Finally, the king's head **soldier** [*march in place*] stood in front of the great crowd and shouted, "Listen to King Nebuchadnezzar's command! When the band plays **music** [*play instruments*], you must bow down and worship the golden statue. Anyone who doesn't obey will be thrown into the fire!"

Suddenly the **music** [*play instruments*] began. The whole crowd fell down and worshiped King Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue. Everybody, that is, except Daniel's three best friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They worshiped only God. They could never worship the king's statue!

Some of the **soldiers** [*march in place*] and wise men hurried to talk to King Nebuchadnezzar. "You said all the people were to bow down and worship the statue when the **music** [*play instruments*] began, or they would be thrown into the fire. Look! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not bow down!"

King Nebuchadnezzar's face turned ugly. He was angry! "Bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego here!" the king ordered.

The **soldiers** [*march in place*] hurried off to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to the king.

"Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refused to worship the golden statue I have set up?" King Nebuchadnezzar asked.

"Yes," said Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

"I will give you one more chance,"

King Nebuchadnezzar said. "But if you don't bow down and worship the statue, you will be thrown into the blazing fire!"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood straight and tall in front of King Nebuchadnezzar. "You can throw us into the fire," they said. "Our God is able to save us from your power. But even if He decides not to save us, we will never worship the golden statue!"

"Make the fire seven times hotter!" King Nebuchadnezzar screamed to the **soldiers**. [*march in place*] "Tie up these men and throw them into the fire!"

So the **soldiers** [*march in place*] tied up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and threw them into the roaring fire while the king and the great crowd of people watched. The fire was so hot that many of the **soldiers** [*march in place*] died when they threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace.

Ha! King Nebuchadnezzar thought. *That will take care of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!* But when he looked into the furnace, he jumped up and shouted, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the fire? I see four men in there! And the fourth man looks like the son of God!"

King Nebuchadnezzar went as close to the roaring fire as he could. "Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego! Come out!" the king called.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire. Everyone crowded around them. They touched their skin. They fingered their hair. They examined their clothes. They couldn't believe it! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had been in the fire, but their clothes weren't burned! Their skin wasn't hurt! They didn't even smell like smoke!

"Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!" King Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed. "Their God has saved His servants from the fire. No other God can save people like this!"

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Who do you think was in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? How do you think they felt when Jesus saved them from the fire? They felt like worshiping God, didn't they? But they had already worshiped God. Do you know how? They worshiped God when they refused to bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's statue. They refused to do wrong. Remember . . .**



We worship God when we refuse to do wrong things.

Say that with me.

Bible Study

Open your Bible to Daniel 3. Point to the text and say: **This is where today's story is found in God's Word, the Bible.** Read selected verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

You Need:

Bible

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What was the king's statue made of? What did King Nebuchadnezzar want everyone to do when the music started playing? Who didn't obey the king? Why?**

What did the king do to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? What happened to the three men in the fire? Who was with them?

Will Jesus be with you when you

refuse to do something wrong? Yes, Jesus will be with you when you choose to worship Him by obeying Him. Remember . . .



We worship God when we refuse to do wrong things.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

You Need:

Bible

Turn to Joshua 24:15 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in**

God’s Word, the Bible. Read the memory verse aloud: **“We will serve the LORD.”** Then use the following to teach it:



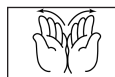
We Point to self, then to others.



will serve Move hands away from body, palms up.



the LORD. Point upward.



Joshua 24:15 Palms together, then open.

3

Applying the Lesson

Teacher Says

Say: **We are going to play a game called Teacher Says. I’m going to tell you things to do. Some will be right. Some will be wrong.**

Listen carefully because I know you want to do the right thing. When I ask you to do the right thing, take one step forward. When I ask you to do something wrong, take one step backward.

Have the children line up side by side. Give instructions for doing unkind things by prefacing them with “Teacher says.” Give instructions for doing kind things without “teacher says.” This will help the children understand how the three Hebrews felt when they refused to obey

King Nebuchadnezzar’s authority because they chose to worship only God. Say:

- Hug your grandma.**
- Teacher says, hit your brother.**
- Teacher says, yell at your mother.**
- Give your mother a present.**
- Teacher says, break someone’s toy.**
- Share your toys.**
- Clean your room.**
- Teacher says, disobey your Dad.**
- Say your memory verse.**
- Teacher says, keep teasing your sister.**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Was**

it hard to think you had to do what Teacher said? Why? (Because these things were wrong.) **Have you ever been told by someone to do something you knew was wrong? What did you do? Was it hard to know what to do?**

Say: **Even though it might be embarrassing to be different or to say no, we want always to obey God**

and do the right thing as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did. So let's remember today's message:



We worship God when we refuse to do wrong things.

Say that with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Fiery Furnace

In advance, copy the fiery furnace pattern (see p. 143) for each child, and cut the cellophane or tissue paper into small pieces. Have the children color the picture and then glue on some small pieces of cellophane or tissue paper to look like fire in the furnace. Ask: **Do you know what the fiery furnace says on it? It's our message:**



We worship God when we refuse to do wrong things.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Is it always easy to refuse to do wrong things? Who helped Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Who will help you?

Say: **Take your fiery furnace home with you and share it with someone as you tell them about the three men who refused to worship a statue. And remember:**



We worship God when we refuse to do wrong things.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- fiery furnace pattern (see p. 143)
- paper
- small orange, red, yellow cellophane or tissue paper pieces
- crayons
- glue

Closing

Pray that the children will say *no* to wrong things because they worship God.

STUDENT LESSON

The Fiery Furnace

References

Daniel 3;
Prophets and
Kings, pp. 503-
513

Memory Verse

“We will serve the
LORD” (Joshua
24:15, NIV).

The Message

We worship
God when we
refuse to do
wrong things.

Has anyone ever wanted you to do something wrong? What did you do? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were asked to do something wrong too.

It was finished at last. The gigantic golden statue King Nebuchadnezzar had ordered to be made stood tall—as tall as an eight-story building! The next day, many rulers who served Nebuchadnezzar gathered in the valley. They stared up at the huge golden statue.

The rulers also stared at a large furnace near the statue. Soldiers were building a big fire in it. “Why are they doing that?” people whispered.

Finally a man stood before the crowd. “People!” he shouted. “Listen to the king’s command! When the musicians play, you must bow down and worship the king’s golden statue. Anyone who doesn’t obey will be thrown into this blazing furnace!”

Suddenly the music burst forth. Everyone fell down. Everyone except Daniel’s three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were Hebrews, God’s special children. They couldn’t worship a statue! Some men saw them and hurried to the king. “Look!” they exclaimed. “Those three Hebrews did not bow down!”

King Nebuchadnezzar’s face turned red with anger. “Bring them here!” he ordered.

The guards rushed to obey. “So you did not bow down to worship the golden statue!” the king shouted at the three Hebrews. “I will give you one more

chance. But if you don’t bow down and worship the statue, you will be thrown into the blazing fire! Who will help you then?”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood straight and tall. “O, King,” they said, “our God is able to save us. But even if He decides not to, we will never worship your gods or the golden statue!”

“Make the fire seven times hotter!” King Nebuchadnezzar shouted angrily to the soldiers. “Tie up these men and throw them into the furnace!”

So the guards threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the roar-

ing fire.

King Nebuchadnezzar watched the fire. He soon jumped up and shouted, “Didn’t we put three men into the furnace? I see four! And the fourth looks like the Son of God!”

“Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego! Come out!” the king called.

The young Hebrews stepped out of the fire. The rulers crowded around. They couldn’t believe it! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not burned. They didn’t even smell like smoke!

“Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!” the king exclaimed. “Their God saved His servants from the fire. No other God can save people like this!”



Do and Say

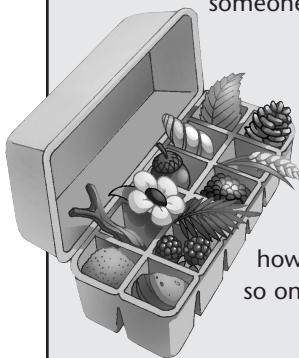
Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

- We** Point to self, then to others.
- will serve** Move hands away from body, palms up.
- the LORD.** Point upward.
- Joshua 24:15** Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Encourage your child to share the “fiery furnace” they made in Sabbath School (or help draw and color an outline of a furnace with four men in it) and tell the Bible story as they share the “fiery furnace” with someone.



Monday

With your child, take an empty egg carton outside and fill it with things God made (one item per cup). Talk about how only God can make these things, so only He deserves our worship.

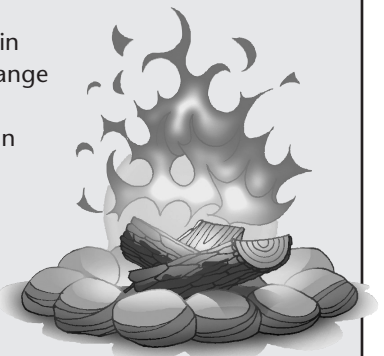
Tuesday

Talk to your child about fire safety. Say: If a friend wants to play with fire, it is dangerous and wrong. (Discuss why.) Say: We worship God by refusing to do wrong things. Ask: Do you want to be brave for Jesus as the three Hebrews were?

Wednesday

Light a candle. Explain that the flame colors change as the heat of the flame changes. Discuss safety in using matches and candles.

Visit a fire station or read a book about fires to help your child understand what the Hebrews escaped from.



Thursday

March around your house to marching music and have your child “freeze” when you stop the music; then begin marching when you start the music again. Remind your child that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were asked to bow down to worship the statue when they heard the music.

Tell your child about a time you refused to do something wrong. What happened? Pray that your child will say “No” to doing wrong.

Friday

Have your child tell the Bible story for worship. Sing praise songs using musical instruments or pots and pans for “accompaniment.” Pray that your family members will serve only God.