Preschool–Grade 6

The Fiery Furnace

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I will love and worship only God. God is with me.
Bible passage: Daniel 3. Read Daniel 3:1–30 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned" *Isaiah 43:2 (KJV)*. The old words **thou** means you and **walkest** means walk.
You need: a Bible, red, orange and yellow paper strips (or streamers) and tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Daniel 3. Tape the paper strips across a doorway or between two chairs to make a "furnace" the kids can walk through.

1. Opening game: Stand Up Tall (5 minutes)

Kids crouch down small. Call out, "Stand up tall!" and they jump up. Call out, "Get small!" and they crouch again. Then say, "Bow down to the gold statue!" and teach them to stand up extra tall and say, "No! I love God!" Play it several times. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about three men who stood up tall for God."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Daniel 3. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Three friends loved God: Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego (Daniel 3:12). *(Hold up three fingers.)*
A king made a great big statue of gold (3:1). *(Reach up high.)*
The king told everybody to bow down to his statue (3:4–5). *(Point like a bossy king.)*
All the people bowed down (3:7). *(Bow down low.)*
But the three friends stood up tall. They worshiped only God (3:12, 3:18). *(Stand up tall.)*
Say it with me: "We will worship only God!"
The king was angry. He put the friends into a big, hot fire (3:13, 3:20–21). *(Fan your face: hot!)*
The king looked in. He saw four men walking in the fire! (3:25). *(Hold up four fingers.)*
God was with them in the fire! *(Hug yourself.)*
Say it with me: "God is with me!"
The friends came out, not burned! They did not even smell like fire! (3:26–27). *(Sniff and smile.)*
The king praised God! (3:28). *(Lift your hands up.)*
Say it with me: "I will love and worship only God!"

3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Did the three friends bow down to the statue? *(No! They worshiped only God, Daniel 3:18)*
2. How many men did the king see in the fire? *(Four! Hold up four fingers, 3:25)*
3. Were the friends burned? *(No! They didn't even smell like fire, 3:27)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God says, 'when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned.' Thou means you. Walkest means walk." Teach the motions: walk two fingers across your hand for "when thou walkest through the fire," then shake your head and smile for "thou shalt not be burned." Say it with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Isaiah 43:2" and clap two times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God was with the three friends, and God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Walk Through the Fire (5–10 minutes)

Kids take turns walking slowly through your paper-strip "furnace," three at a time, holding hands. As each group comes out, everyone cheers, "God was with them!" Then give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, they draw the three friends standing tall, and color red and orange fire all around them. While they color, ask: "Who was with the friends in the fire? Did they bow down?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for being with me.
Help me love and worship only You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let every child walk through the furnace. If they get wiggly, play Stand Up Tall again.

If a child is scared of the fire: say, "God was with the three friends, and they came out safe. God is with you too." This lesson leaves out the soldiers who died from the heat (Daniel 3:22); read it yourself before class.

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