

Let Your Light So Shine



Unit 3

Three Holy Youths

Lesson – 25 min

Before reading the Bible verses of the day, choose someone to portray King Nebuchadnezzar. Introduce him: “King Nebuchadnezzar ruled during the time of the Prophet Daniel. The King captured Jews in Judah and took them as servants.” Next choose the Three Holy Youths. “Three of those captured were Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego). As part of King Nebuchadnezzar’s rule, he had a statue built and summoned all his people to come see it.” Assign all other parts, reserving the angel to the side. “Let me read about what happens.”

Read Daniel 3:1-19. Have students act out their parts: such as King Nebuchadnezzar calling everyone, the herald proclaiming the commands, and the astrologers telling the King about the Three Holy Youths’ disobedience.

Ask: “What did King Nebuchadnezzar ask everyone to do?” “Did the Three Holy Youths follow his orders?” “What did King Nebuchadnezzar threaten to do to them if they did not follow his orders?”

Pull out the fiery furnace box. Read Daniel 3:19-20. Give soldiers seven extra tissue paper flames to add to the box. Read 3:21-30 continuing to act out the scene with the Three Holy Youths being placed in (behind the box) the furnace and the angel joining them.

Ask: “What happened when King Nebuchadnezzar threw the Three Holy Youths into the fire?” “Who do you think was in the fire with them?” Show the icon of the youth and show how the person in the flames with them has a halo with a cross in it indicating it is Christ.



Lesson Activity

Costumes Needed:

King Nebuchadnezzar: a crown

Three Holy Youths: robes, ponchos, or scarves to tie around their waist

Angel/Christ: white robe or large t-shirt, wings, or a halo

The remaining students can be astrologers, government officials, or soldiers. They can be given a robe or belt to wear and a sword or spear (pool noodles or wrapping paper tubes work well).

Supplies: some gold item to act as the statue; a cardboard box with flame colored tissue paper coming out of it; extra 7 tissue paper flames



Video Connection – 30 min additional time

Veggie Tales Video (Available on YouTube): Rach, Shack, and Benny—retells the story of the Three Holy Youth with the golden statue being a chocolate bunny

Games

Escape the Furnace – 15 min

Supplies Needed: items to place as steppingstones across the room such as blankets, papers, or glowing Frisbees

For older students, have a pile of items to use as steppingstones. Explain that they need to escape the fiery furnace with Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego. To do this they need to figure out as a team how to get across the room (furnace). Have them pass steppingstones to each other and cross the space by laying one down in front of them.

For younger students, have steppingstones pre-set up. Explain that the center of the room has become a fiery furnace and just like God protected them, the steppingstones are our protection from the fire. Guide them across the path. Students could step or hop across the path. After they made it across, they could rearrange the stones and try again.



Fiery Furnace Toss – 10 min

Supplies Needed: water balloons or bean bags, a large bucket that can be decorated with cellophane paper flames

Set the large bucket up across the room or in an outside area. Students stand about ten feet away. Explain that we need to extinguish the flames in the fiery furnace to help protect Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego. Students attempt to throw water balloons or bean bags into the bucket.

To mix it up, have them try from various distances or to throw it in different ways—overhand, underhand, standing backwards, or between their legs. You could also create a line where students must toss the balloon down the line until the last person can drop it directly into the bucket.



Troparion of the Three Holy Youth – Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith, / for the Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the source of the flame, as if by restful waters, / and the Prophet Daniel appeared as a shepherd of lions as of sheep. / By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Craft & Snack

Fiery Furnace Craft – 25 min

Supplies Needed: paper bag, four straws, strips of red, orange, and yellow paper, three youth figures & angel paper figures

Purchase and print the Fiery Furnace Stick Puppet page from the link below or find a free version to print. Cut a hole out of the center of the one side of the paper bag—this is the furnace. Glue strips of colored paper around the edges of this hole to look like fire. Color the youth and angel, and then attach them to the straws. Students can then put on a puppet show.

<https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-crafts-shadrach.html#purchase>



Furnace Snack – 25 min

Supplies Needed: crackers, pretzel sticks, peanut butter or cheddar cheese spread, candy corn, teddy grahams

Each student receives a cracker to spread peanut butter or cheddar cheese onto the center. They then break apart pretzel sticks to feed the furnace like the King did to make it seven times hotter. Add candy corn flames. Then add three of the teddy grahams to represent the three youth being thrown into the fire. Finally add a fourth figure into their fiery snack.



Ending – 5 min

To wrap up the day, select a student to retell today's story with the fiery furnace craft. Ask the students to choose a family member and retell the story once they are home.