



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

We Didn't Start the Fire
Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego
Daniel 3

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you do what's right,
others can see God.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Anyone who lives without blame
walks away safely. But anyone
who takes a crooked path
will get caught."**
Proverbs 10:9, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Integrity—Choosing to be
truthful in whatever you
say and do**

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (25 MINUTES)

WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

1. OPENER/CLOSER

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Worship Leaders, to help with the game (see "What You Do")
- Kids and leaders to be the contestants
- Eight to ten inflatable circular pool floats—ideally ones that look like tires, like these: <https://bit.ly/3oLkke6> (note: these can be the same ones you used for week two)
- Six to ten traffic cones
- Masking or gaffer's tape

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun music for the game (suggestion: "Drive My Car" by The Beatles)

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Worship Leaders (see "What You Do")
- Four kid volunteers
- Bible
- Scrim, such as a flat sheet stretched tightly on a pipe-and-drape frame
- Bright spotlight to shine from behind the scrim to make silhouettes on the sheet
- Inflatable trophy, similar to these: <https://bit.ly/3Pa9dWz>
- Crown
- Printed script on a clipboard for the Worship Leaders
- Two book lights, for the Bible and clipboard

Daniel 3:4-6 (NirV)
Daniel 3:24, NirV
Daniel 3:25 (NirV)
Daniel 3:28-29



WHAT'S INSIDE
MATTERS MOST

WEEK
FOUR
OCTOBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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and Abednego
Daniel 3

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, everybody! It's so great to see all of you here today. Can anybody raise your hand and tell me what we've been talking about this month? (*Pause for response.*) That's right! We're finding out how we can live with integrity.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Integrity is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"God made us to act with integrity—to be the same on the inside as we are on the outside. Our relationship with God is what **DRIVES** us to be truthful with all of our words and actions.

"I've got another fun relay racing game for us to play today. It's this side of the room versus this side. (*Reference both sides of the room.*) What do you think, are you and your team **DRIVEN** to win? (*Pause for response.*)

"First, let's pick our players. I'll need [number] kids from each team, plus one Small Group Leader. If you want to play, raise your hand.

Quickly choose several kids and one leader from each side. You'll need to pick the number of kids to match the number of tire floats you'll use, plus one, for each team.

Have both teams line up, single-file, behind the tape line. Make sure the Small Group Leaders for both teams are last in line.



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LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

"We have our teams lined up, which is great! And now I need one person from each team to start over here on this side. (Reference the two "X" marks.)

Bring a kid from each team to stand on an X.

Worship Leaders enter, carrying the tire floats to the two kids by the "X" marks.

(to the two kids) "[Kids' names], the two of you will start the game INSIDE a tower of tires! Are you ready for this? Here we go.

Worship Leaders place the tire floats over the top of each kid, stacking them. You'll probably need four or five floats per team so that they reach just above the kids' heads.

"Okay, now it's up to your teammates to free you!

As you explain the game, demonstrate what to do.

(to the two teams) "Teams, when I say, 'Go,' the first person in line will run across to your friend by weaving through the cones, like this. (Demonstrate.) Then you'll remove one tire from the stack and ROLL it back to your team. (Demonstrate.) You'll have to weave around the cones on your way back, too! (Demonstrate.) Once you cross the line, then the next person in line can go. (Replace the tire on the kid's stack.)

"You'll take turns, and go one by one, until you've brought back all of the tires. THEN it's your leader's turn! Your leader will weave their way to your friend, then CARRY them back to the starting line. The first team to rescue their teammate and sit down behind the line, wins!

"Are we ready? (to audience) Be sure to cheer for your team, everyone. Ready, set, go!

AUDIO: FUN MUSIC (SUGGESTION: "DRIVE MY CAR" BY THE BEATLES)

Cheer for teams as they go, making sure they're following the rules. Encourage the audience to cheer for their teams.

When the game is over, Worship Leaders take the tire floats backstage.

"WOW! That was incredible! Let's give all of our volunteers a hand as they head back to their seats. AND, let's all get ready to sing and worship God together. Everyone stand up!"



WEEK
FOUR
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LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters. Worship Leaders get ready by the scrim.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, everyone! We have another great story of integrity to look at in the Bible, in the book of Daniel. (*Hold up Bible.*) I'll need four of you to help me tell it!

Bring up four kids and direct them to the area with the scrim.

Worship Leaders help the four kids get into position behind the scrim and explain that they should be in superhero poses when the light comes up.

"We'll see them again in just a minute!

"As we read God's Big Story in the Bible, we can see how God had a plan to bless the whole world through one family: the Israelites. But over and over, the Israelites kept turning away from God. Eventually, they were conquered by the Babylonians, who were led by a king named Nebuchadnezzar. The king chose several young Israelite men to serve in his court, including Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

LIGHTS: DOWN IN THE ROOM

LIGHTS: SCRIM SPOTLIGHT ON

Turn the light on behind the scrim to reveal the silhouettes of the four kids standing in a superhero stance.

"Ah, yes, there they are!

LIGHTS: NORMAL (ROOM LIGHTS UP, SCRIM SPOTLIGHT OFF)

When the scrim lights go off, Worship Leaders have three of the kids exit the scrim, while one stays. They give the crown to the kid who is still behind the scrim. They put the inflatable trophy behind the scrim next to the kid playing the king.

"God blessed Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego with health, knowledge, and wisdom. Eventually, the king put Daniel in charge of a big part of the kingdom and appointed his three friends to help."

KING NEB'S STATUE

STORYTELLER: "One day, King Nebuchadnezzar decided to make a huge golden statue. It was 90 feet tall!

LIGHTS: DOWN IN THE ROOM

LIGHTS: SCRIM SPOTLIGHT ON

Turn the light on behind the scrim to reveal the silhouettes of the "king" and the inflatable trophy.



25 MINUTES

“Well, look at that. That is one huge golden statue.

LIGHTS: NORMAL (ROOM LIGHTS UP, SCRIM SPOTLIGHT OFF)

When the scrim lights go off, Worship Leaders have the other three kids stand behind the scrim along with the inflatable trophy, while the “king” exits. They explain to the three kids that they should be standing together with their arms crossed when the light comes up again.

“The king was so pleased that he sent for all the highest officials of Babylon to come celebrate the statue he had built.

“Daniel wasn’t there. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were among the guests. Once everyone was assembled, a messenger called out . . .

Open the Bible to Daniel 3:4-6 (NIV) and read.

Listen, you people who come from every nation! . . . Here is what the king commands you to do. You will soon hear the sound of horns and flutes. You will hear zithers, lyres, harps and pipes. In fact, you will hear all kinds of music. When you do, you must fall down and worship the gold statue. That is the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. If you don’t, you will be thrown into a blazing furnace right away.

“Everyone bowed down like the king said . . . EXCEPT for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!

LIGHTS: DOWN IN THE ROOM

LIGHTS: SCRIM SPOTLIGHT ON

Turn the light on behind the scrim to reveal the silhouettes of the inflatable trophy and three kids with their arms crossed.

“They knew it wasn’t right to worship anyone or anything but the One True God.”

LIGHTS: NORMAL (ROOM LIGHTS UP, SCRIM SPOTLIGHT OFF)

When the scrim lights go off, Worship Leaders have the three kids come out from behind the scrim, bringing the inflatable trophy with them. They have the fourth kid stand behind the scrim while wearing the crown. They tell him to have his fists raised when the light comes up again.

STANDING FOR WHAT’S RIGHT

STORYTELLER: “Some of the officials told the king that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego weren’t following the king’s order to bow down and worship the statue. King Nebuchadnezzar was angry!

LIGHTS: DOWN IN THE ROOM

LIGHTS: SCRIM SPOTLIGHT ON

Turn the light on behind the scrim to reveal the silhouette of the “king” raising his fists in anger.

“Ooohhhh, he DOES look angry.



25 MINUTES

LIGHTS: NORMAL (ROOM LIGHTS UP, SCRIM SPOTLIGHT OFF)

When the scrim lights go off, Worship Leaders have the “king” exit the scrim, and the three other kids enter. They tell the three kids to have their hands behind their backs like they’re tied up when the light comes up again.

“The king sent for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He asked them if it was true that they had refused to bow down to his statue. Again, he told them they had to bow down when they heard the sound. If they didn’t, they would be thrown into a blazing furnace!

“Listen to the way Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king. They said . . .

Open the Bible to Daniel 3:16-18 (NirV) and read.

King Nebuchadnezzar, we don’t need to talk about this anymore. We might be thrown into the blazing furnace. But the God we serve is able to bring us out of it alive. He will save us from your power. But we want you to know this, Your Majesty. Even if we knew that our God wouldn’t save us, we still wouldn’t serve your gods. We wouldn’t worship the gold statue you set up.”

ANOTHER IN THE FIRE

STORYTELLER: “King Nebuchadnezzar became so angry that he ordered the furnace to be made seven times hotter than usual! Then the king’s strongest soldiers tied up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and threw them into the blazing hot furnace.

LIGHTS: DOWN IN THE ROOM
LIGHTS: SCRIM SPOTLIGHT ON

Turn the light on behind the scrim to reveal the silhouettes of the three kids with their hands behind their backs.

“Oh, no! I hope they’ll be okay!

LIGHTS: NORMAL (ROOM LIGHTS UP, SCRIM SPOTLIGHT OFF)

When the scrim lights go off, Worship Leaders have the fourth kid stand behind the scrim with the others—this time, without the crown.

“The king looked inside the furnace and saw something amazing. He leaped to his feet and asked his advisers, ‘Didn’t we throw three men into the fire?’ (Daniel 3:24, NirV) The advisers said yes, they did.

“The king said . . .

LIGHTS: DOWN IN THE ROOM
LIGHTS: SCRIM SPOTLIGHT ON

Turn the light on behind the scrim to reveal the silhouettes of all four kids.



25 MINUTES

Open the Bible to Daniel 3:25 (NirV) and read.

Look! I see **four** men walking around in the fire. They aren't tied up. And the fire hasn't even harmed them. The fourth man looks like a son of the gods. (emphasis added)

LIGHTS: NORMAL (ROOM LIGHTS UP, SCRIM SPOTLIGHT OFF)

When the scrim lights go off, Worship Leaders have the three kids playing Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego come out from behind the scrim. They have the fourth kid stay behind the scrim and put on the crown. They tell him to be pointing up with one hand when the light comes up again.

"The king told Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to come out of the fire. And when they did, they weren't harmed or burned in any way! They didn't even smell like smoke.

"King Nebuchadnezzar was so amazed that he praised God.

LIGHTS: DOWN IN THE ROOM

LIGHTS: SCRIM SPOTLIGHT ON

Turn the light on behind the scrim to reveal the silhouette of the "king" pointing up.

"He said . . .

Open the Bible to Daniel 3:28-29 (NirV) and read.

May the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be praised! He has sent his angel and saved his servants. They trusted in him. They refused to obey my command. They were willing to give up their lives. They would rather die than serve or worship any god except their own God. No other god can save people this way.

LIGHTS: NORMAL (ROOM LIGHTS UP, SCRIM SPOTLIGHT OFF)

When the scrim lights go off, Worship Leaders thank the kids and dismiss them to their seats.

"Thank you to our actors. Great job, everyone!"

Worship Leaders exit.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had the integrity to stand up for what they knew was right! The king was so impressed that he gave them even higher positions in the city of Babylon and the towns around it.

"It could have been pretty dangerous for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to ignore the king's order and follow God instead. But they knew they should only worship God—not a statue. Because of their integrity, the king and everyone else could see the truth about God for themselves.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE



WEEK
FOUR
OCTOBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

"When you do what's right, others can see God.

"It's important that we live truthfully so that other people can see God working in our lives. Let's pray and ask God to help us with that."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for giving Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego the integrity and courage to follow You and You alone. Help us have that same kind of integrity, too. We want our words and actions to show Your love, so that other people can see what You're like and how You've made a difference in our lives. Help us do what's right so that other people can see and know You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did what they knew was right. They didn’t follow the king’s command to bow to the statue. God rescued Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace. And because of it, everyone could see God’s power in a BIG way!

“You see, when we choose to do what’s right, people around us can see how God is working in our lives. If we’re facing something tough, but we still **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**, other people will notice! So it’s really important that we live each day with integrity.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“When you do what’s right, others can see God.

“If you’re ever feeling unsure about what the right thing might be, think about Jesus. Think about what HE said was most important: loving God and loving other people.

“Jesus lived with integrity, even when things got really difficult, and even when it cost Him something. Even when it meant He would die on the cross. When we do our best to live like Jesus and share His love, we show the world what God is like.

Share a brief, kid-appropriate story of someone you know who has helped you see what God is like because of the way they live with integrity.

“Let’s choose to live truthfully and do what’s right everywhere we go. Who knows? Maybe that will help someone else see how much God loves them! You can head to Small Group now and talk about that some more with your friends. Have fun!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP