

Bible background

Daniel 3

Aim of lesson

To show that there is only one God and he has power over nature and can save from death.

Preparation required

Make one paper crown (use the model in Lesson 140) and one or two paper trumpets. You will also need the material to continue the frieze and/or booklets as in Lesson 111.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Using the three pictures in your activity sheet, tell the children what happened to Daniel's three friends. You may like to cut your activity sheet before class so that they are looking at only one picture at a time. With the first picture, tell the children why the three friends would not bow down. The people in that country thought the statue was a god and they were worshipping it. The three friends knew that there is only one God and he is invisible, he is not a block of stone or gold. God can save them from the fire even though they do not know whether he will or not. They were prepared to die for God. They would not have gone into the fire willingly, nor must the children put their hand into a fire. God saved these three friends because they were doing what God had taught them. With the last picture draw out that God has power over fire and anything else that can harm us, even death.
2. Teach this week's verses of the song 'He's Got The Whole World'.
3. You could get the children to act out the story. Allow them to mime their parts as you re-tell the story. Give the crown to Nebuchadnezzar and the paper trumpet(s) to the musician(s). Use the corner of the room for the fire.
4. Ask the children to continue the frieze and/or booklets.

Alternative activities

1. Make pictures, either individually or as a whole class of Daniel's friends and the angel in the furnace. You could sponge print (trim the sponge into simple flame shapes) or make flames from coloured/shiny paper. Use simple fabric or paper shapes for clothing and circles of paper for heads.
2. Act out the story with play figures. Make a large 'statue' from Plasticine or card. Have most of the figures bowing down before the image when the music sounds (Cue: sound effects from class!). Make a furnace from a box or with Lego. Put Daniel's friends inside. You could add some Plasticine flames and then the angel. Daniel's friends can then emerge safely.

Now something harder

If your children find this exercise difficult you could provide them with a list of the words to help with spelling.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children if they know God can save them from death. Tell them that he will send his son Jesus to raise to life people who have died, so that they can live for ever in his kingdom.

Prayer

Ask the children if they are glad that God has control of fire, thunderstorms and death. Would they like to say a prayer about being glad?

Verse

'The Lord watches over all who love him.' Psalm 145:20.

Song

He's Got The Whole Word (Continued from Lesson 112)

v.5 He's got the burning fire in his hands (three times)
He's got the whole world in his hands.

Chorus: He's got the whole world in his hands (four times)

You may like to include:

He's got Daniel's friends in his hands (three times)
He's got the whole world in his hands.

Music and chorus: Traditional.