



1/24/21 - 4th-5th

God Rescues

Daniel 3

Bibles

Daniel 3

Essentials

Activities we require all classes to complete. You are welcome to complete them in whichever order you think best. We anticipate all essential activities will take approximately 20 minutes for younger kids and 30 minutes for older. Every week we will have the same four essential activities:

- Bible Story
- Bible Memorization
- Catechism
- Hymn

Bible Story: God Rescues

**Note: We ask that you read the assigned passage in your bible and in the children's Bible assigned to your class before teaching each weekend. We recommend reviewing the attached notes from The Bible Story Handbook before you arrive to class. Pay close attention to the section titled, "Mistakes to Avoid."*

God rescued His people, the Israelites, even in their disobedience and captivity. When Babylon defeated the nation of Judah and destroyed Jerusalem, the conquerors took captive Hebrew men of nobility to serve the Babylonians. "Among those who were chosen were ... Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego" (Daniel 1:6–7).

Part of the Babylonians' strategy as a world power was to assimilate any potential leaders from the next generation of Hebrews into the Babylonian culture. One way they did this was by changing all Hebrew names to Babylonian names. This was only part of the effort of the Babylonian king to turn the followers of Israel's God into loyal followers of Babylonian culture and religion.



The Babylonians tried to make these Hebrew men conform to their culture. And although, in many ways, Daniel and his friends reflected Babylonian culture on the outside—in the names they were given and the language they spoke—the similarity stopped there. They may have looked and spoken like Babylonians, but the men's hearts did not serve their gods. Daniel and his friends chose to serve only the one true God, even in the face of death. *Reflective Questions:*

- Have someone retell the story in their own words
- Ask for other children to fill in additional details
- Other good questions to consider:
 - What did King Nebuchadnezzar command the people to do? Daniel 3:5–6
 - Why didn't Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego obey the king? Daniel 3:16–18
 - What did King Nebuchadnezzar see in the fiery furnace? Daniel 3:24–25
 - What happened after God rescued Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Daniel 3:28–29
 - In what ways has God rescued you?

Memory Verse

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you but will rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17

Catechism

Toddlers: Question 6 in *First Catechism*

4 Years – 1st Grade: Questions 6 in *First Catechism*

2nd - 5th Grade: Question 6 in **The New City Catechism*. Please use the shorter answer which is highlighted in red.

**Note:* 4th and 5th grade teachers should consider practicing the longer answer. All other classes should practice the shorter answer, which is highlighted.



Hymn

If you would like to use the speaker provided in the classroom, we recommend playing the following version from YouTube: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (feat. Hannah Hardin) – The Worship Initiative

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer
Oh, what peace we often forfeit
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer
Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer



Non-Essentials

Activities you may do with the kids, but they are not required. Consider your class and how they will respond best. Remember the key is to provide context for the kids to consider what they have learned through story, catechism, Bible memory and hymns and to provide opportunities for you to develop relationships with each child.

Welcome Activity: Hot Potato

Supplies

- Beanbag (Balloon bean bag in white box)
- Upbeat music (suggestion: "Celebrate," TruWorship Sincerely Yours) use iPad for music

Kids play a game of Hot Potato with a beanbag as answer questions about themselves.

Relate

CONNECT QUESTION: Welcome and greet children. Open your time by asking this question: When was a time you asked someone for help?

Have the children sit in a circle. Thank you for sharing your stories about times you asked for help. As we begin today, let's play a game of Hot Potato with this beanbag. Hand the beanbag to a child. We're going to pass the beanbag around as music plays. When the music stops, whoever is holding the beanbag gets to answer a question. Start the music and have the kids pass the beanbag clockwise. At any time, stop the music and ask a question to the student holding the beanbag. When the child finishes answering, start the music again and play a new round.

Ask the following questions or come up with your own:

- What was the best part of your week?
- What's something you're looking forward to next week?
- What's your favorite movie and why?
- What's your favorite activity and why?
- If you could have one wish, what would it be and why?



Response Activity: God Is Our Rescuer **Supplies in Box**

Supplies

- Poster board
- Magazines (4–5)
- Scissors (1 pair per child)
- Glue sticks (1 per child)
- Markers
- Tape

Children create a collage to praise God for being their rescuer.

Prepare Ahead

Write on the top of the poster board in bold letters: "God Is Our Rescuer."

Relate

In today's portion of The Big God Story, God rescued His servants from a scary situation. What are some other examples in The Big God Story of God rescuing His servants? Interact with answers. Good thoughts.

God is our Rescuer too! He is mighty to save. Not only did He save us from sin and death, but He is with us every day! When we experience hard things in life or something doesn't happen how we want, He gives us strength and peace. We can praise God because He will never leave us. What do you want to say to God for being your Rescuer? Allow the children to share.

Let's celebrate and praise God for being our Rescuer! Invite students to make a collage using pictures and words they cut out from magazines to show praise to God for being our Rescuer. When they finish, use tape to hang the collage in the classroom.

Game: Freeze Statues **No Supplies Needed**

In this game of freezing statues, kids will recall that God's servants refused to worship the statue the king created.

Set Up

Clear a space in the classroom for kids to do the activity.

Relate

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship anyone but the one true God. They refused to worship the statue of King Nebuchadnezzar.



Today, we're going to play a game of Freeze Statues. To begin, one of you will be King Nebuchadnezzar and stand on one side of the room. The rest of you will be statues. Nebuchadnezzar will face away from you, and when he says, "Go," you'll try to reach him as fast as you can. He can yell, "Freeze" when he wants, and when he does, he'll turn around, and you must freeze in place. If you're moving when he turns, then you'll be out. The first child to reach Nebuchadnezzar wins. Then, he can be Nebuchadnezzar for the next round.

When students are finished, discuss: Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to worship the statue? How do you think the men felt when they refused to worship the statue? How does God rescue His servants today?

Songs

Consider playing one or two children's worship songs and singing together as a group. Songs are preloaded in iTunes on the iPads in each class.