Grades 1-3 Lesson Template

Where	Who and What	What you Need
Classroom	Teacher takes attendance Give students a sticker	Paper on table, check off who is here, put onto the clipboard
	Do the first part of the craft. Glue the tissue paper onto the page with fire.	Glue Tissue Paper
Large Group	**Large Group Time:** Leader is Bryan. He will get you when he is ready.	
Classroom:	Read group discussion questions p. 24	Bibles
	Orange Experiment: Protected pg. 25	Oranges Water Jar
	Fiery Furnace Craft: Cut out the fire page. Color the background with the people on it. Cut out. Glue the two pages together	Glue Scissors Markers

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Daniel 3. Explain that the nation of Babylon was known for worshiping many different gods. Remind kids that the gold statue was another idol created by human hands and lifeless.

Consider pointing out the nation of Babylon (E11) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Daniel 3:16-18 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

> **SAY** *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced the punishment of death, yet they still refused to worship anyone or anything but God alone. Can you think of anything in your life that you might place above your worship of God?* ***[Allow kids time to think.]***
>
> *Remember that an idol is anything in our lives that we place above God. Take some time this week to think about how you spend your time and what receives your attention. Ask God to help you recognize anything you may be loving or following over Him. Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we are called to love God and obey Him no matter what.*

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

> **SAY** *Why do you think God allowed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be thrown in the fiery furnace?*

Guide kids to see how God used this scary situation to strengthen the men's faith in Him and to show Nebuchadnezzar that God is mighty to save His people. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego went through the fire for God to be glorified. Remind kids that like God was with the men in the fire, God is with those who trust in Jesus no matter what they face. God always acts for the good of His people.

> **SAY** *Nebuchadnezzar said that 'no other god can save like' the three men's God. Why is God alone able to save?*

Discuss how the Babylonians worshiped false gods, or idols, but they couldn't speak, hear, or save. Only God had the power to keep the men safe in the fiery furnace. Share how God alone has the power to save people from sin and death.

> **SAY** *Why is obeying God more important than following what others may be doing?*

Share how obeying God is not always easy, and it may cost us, but God is worthy of our obedience. God only asks us to do what is for our good. Even when others may invite us to go against God, we can stand firm in knowing following God will always lead us to what is best. Following God means that no matter what happens, we have the hope of life with Him.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**

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LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: PROTECTED



Invite the kids to gather around a table while you set out a cup of water. Hold up a peeled orange and an unpeeled orange. Allow kids to examine the difference between the two. Place the peeled orange in the water and encourage kids to examine what happens. Then invite kids to consider how the peeled orange sank. Remove the peeled orange and place the other orange in the water. As the orange floats, discuss how the peel gives the orange buoyancy (allows it to float). Prompt kids to think about how God "covered" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, protecting them from the fiery flames.

> **SAY** *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego bravely obeyed God's commands, even if it meant they would die. But God protected them and revealed that He is the God who saves! God doesn't promise that Christians will be protected from every hardship, but He does promise to protect them from the punishment sin deserves. When we place our faith in Jesus, we are covered in Jesus' righteousness, and God saves us from sin and death.*

☐ OPTION 2: FIERY FURNACE CRAFT

Provide each kid with a "Fiery Furnace" printable and markers. Invite kids to color the images. Then distribute scissors and glue to kids. Direct kids to cut out the two flames and glue them to the appropriate spot on the picture of the men in the furnace. Once complete, kids will be able to "open" the flames to reveal the men in the furnace. Invite kids to take home their craft and use it to help share how **SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO REFUSED TO WORSHIP THE GOLD STATUE, AND GOD RESCUED THEM.**

> **SAY** *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God no matter what. They knew God was powerful enough to save them, but even if He didn't, they would never bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's statue. We can trust God no matter what circumstance we face. God is worthy of our obedience, and through our obedience, we glorify Him.*

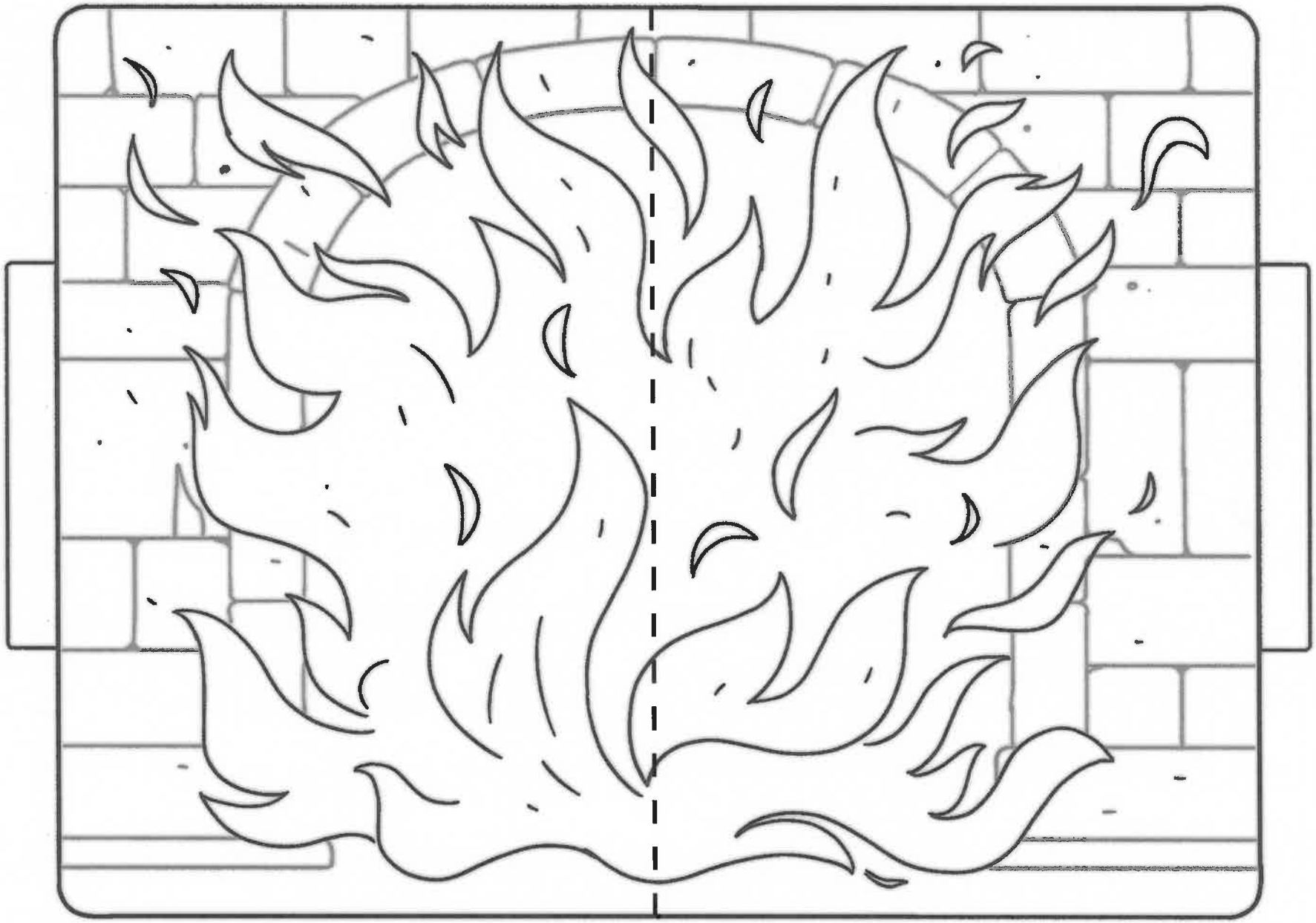
2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.

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Fiery Furnace

Instructions: Print one copy per kid and use as directed in the leader guide.



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