Age 3 and 4 and Kindergarten 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
	Protect the Paper: p. 19 Do one example as we don't have enough ziploc bags for each child.	Water Plastic Container Plastic Bags Paper Towel
	If you need another activity based on time, do the hunt for fire colors also on page 19	
Large Group	**Large Group Time:** Leader is Bryan. He will get you when he is ready.	
Classroom:	Draw faces and clothes on 3 of the men. Then color the 4th man yellow as the fourth one who appeared in the fire.	Markers or crayons
	Play a hot or cold game p. 24	



WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an Allergy Alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "Protect Each Person" on the Activity Page.

> **SAY** *"You matched each person to what they needed for protection. Today we will learn about how God protected three men—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Can you say those names? [Allow responses.] I can't wait to tell you this amazing, true story from God's Word!"*

2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today's Bible story.

HUNT FOR FIRE COLORS



Gather the children and explain they are going on a special hunt to find "fire colors"—red, orange, and yellow items. Show a few examples of those colors using items around the room or your own clothing. Instruct the kids to search the room and look for objects that match those colors. Encourage preschoolers to point to or touch the objects gently without picking them up. Repeat the activity for a few minutes or until everyone has had a chance to find something.

> **SAY** *"We found so many red, orange, and yellow things in our room. These colors remind me of the different colors we see in fire. In today's Bible story, we will learn how* **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO** *in a fire when they chose to worship God."*

PROTECT THE PAPER



Place a plastic container filled with a few inches of water on top of a towel. Distribute a paper towel and ziplock bag to each child. Instruct kids to place the paper towel inside the bag and seal it completely. Assist children as needed in sealing the bag. Guide the children to submerge their bags in the water, then pull them out and dry them. Lead the children to take the dry paper towel out of the bag. (Note: Consider setting up multiple stations.)

> **SAY** *"When you put the paper towel in the water protected by the ziplock bag, it stayed dry. The bag protected the paper towel. In our Bible story today, we will hear how God protected three men in a fire."*

3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers' attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to fan themselves as they transition to Learn.

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**



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LIVE for God out of love

1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: 1) as a group, all at the same time, 2) in small groups that rotate through each activity, or 3) set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

PLAY A HOT OR COLD GAME



Invite preschoolers to stand in the middle of the room. Tell the children you will say an item, and they will decide if that item is hot or cold. If the item is cold, they will pretend to shiver. If the item is hot, they will pretend to fan themselves. Some items to include are:

Cold: ice cream, a freezer, snow, ice, a popsicle, a juice box from the refrigerator

Hot: soup, an oven, a campfire, a grill, hot chocolate, and a fiery furnace.

> **SAY** *Where did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego get thrown when they said they would not worship the statue? (fiery furnace) Was the furnace hot or cold?* **[Allow responses.]** *Yes, it was so hot! But did it hurt Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?* **[Allow responses.]** *They weren't hurt at all—not even their clothes were burned!* **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO.** *The king was amazed and said, 'Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! No other god can save like He does.' We can also praise God and give Him all the glory. What can you praise God for today?* **[Allow responses.]**

PROTECT THE CUP

Place a plastic cup in the center of a large area and guide the children to make a circle around it. Pick one child to be the protector of the cup by guarding it. Demonstrate how to safely roll a soft foam ball and try to knock down the cup. Guide each child to take a turn rolling the ball to try to knock down the cup. Allow each child to have a turn to be the protector of the cup.

> **SAY** *You used your hands and body to protect the cup from the ball. Who protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?* **[Allow responses.]** *Yes,* **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO.** *God deserves all our worship. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego only worshiped God. When we trust in Jesus, we worship only Him because He is the one true Savior.*

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CUT OUT A PICTURE FROM THE STORY



Print a copy of the "Men in the Furnace" printable for each child. Encourage the children to use crayons or markers to make three men with faces and clothes to be Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and color the last man yellow to be the other figure in the furnace. Assist children in accordion-folding the "Men in the Furnace" printable along the dotted lines. When the printable is unfolded it will show four connected people.

> **SAY** *Look what you made! This reminds me of the men in today's Bible story. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not worship the statue, they were thrown in a hot, fiery furnace. But when the king looked in the furnace, he did not see three men; he saw four! One looked very special. This is who God sent to protect Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!* **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO.** *The men lived because God protected them.*

PLAY OUT THE STORY WITH A PARACHUTE

Spread a parachute or bed sheet on the floor in a large area of the room. Encourage the children to gather around the outside of it and grab a handle. Guide the children to wave the parachute and pretend it is the fiery furnace. Play out the story, encouraging the children to play different roles as you retell it. Lead three children into the "furnace" by getting under the parachute. Instruct the children to come back out again and talk about how God protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

> **SAY** *That was a fun way to review the Bible story. We played out how when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego wouldn't worship the statue, King Nebuchadnezzar had them thrown in the furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said, 'Our God can save us from the fire.' Once they got in the furnace, there weren't just three people, there were four! The fourth person looked very special.* **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO.** *God is powerful. He deserves all the glory and all our worship.*

2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed Activity Page. Distribute the Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to review the Bible story and engage with the family discussion starters during the week.

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