

The Fiery Furnace: Lesson 1

SuperTruth: I will obey God no matter what.

SuperVerse: *God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.* James 1:12 (NLT)

Bible Story: Daniel 3

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

The new Superbook video is called “The Fiery Furnace.” Our story today is about three Hebrew men named Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They lived in Babylon, where the king commanded everyone to do something that the three young men knew was wrong. As followers of Jesus, we must make choices every day. We can follow the crowd or choose to obey God and do what is right.

- Chris forgot to study for a test he must pass in order to go on an exciting class trip—so he is tempted to cheat when a boy offers him the answers.
- Superbook takes Chris, Joy and Gizmo to ancient Babylon to meet Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The three Hebrew men must choose whether to bow to an idol or face death. The children learn that obeying God is always the right decision.

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: Stay Cool! (15 minutes)

Objective: *Learn the SuperTruth and stay clear of the fiery furnace!*

- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego wanted to stay out of that hot furnace, but they were willing to be thrown in rather than disobey God! In the game, you will try to stay out of our furnace, too!

Game Instructions:

- The object of the game is for each team to throw their balloon back and forth across the furnace, shouting one word of the SuperTruth in order with each throw. This is done until the SuperTruth is completed. Players try to do this as many times as they can in one minute.

Teaching: Shielded From Pressure (15 minutes)

Objective: *Discuss obedience under pressure.*

- The three Hebrew men chose to obey God again rather than follow the crowd. As difficult as it was for the Hebrew men to stand up to the king, they were ordinary people like we are. When we use the weapons God provides us, ordinary people become extraordinary!

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (2 minutes)

- The challenge is to use the craft Holophones to learn about other people in the Bible who had to risk everything to obey God. Children will also pray for God to show them ways to stand up for Him.

SuperVerse: Superbook Fill in the Blanks (5 minutes)

Objective: *Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.*

- The crown of life is a special reward that will be given in heaven to those who have endured suffering and difficult testing and trials here on Earth. This is a reward for those who would not compromise their beliefs even though they were under extreme pressure.
- Read the verse aloud and stop at certain parts. Children will shout the next word that follows in the verse. The first round children face the board; rounds two and three, they turn around.

Prayer: Bow Down Prayers (5 minutes)

Objective: *Communicate with God.*

- The three Hebrews would not bow down before a gold statue made by men. God is the only One worthy to bow down to; the only One worthy of our worship, praise and service.
- Have children kneel down on their knees as you pray.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

Worship Activity: Worship the One True God. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

Object Lesson: Demonstrate God’s miraculous protection in the furnace. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

Heads or Tails Game: Don’t just follow the crowd. | **Grades 1–3** | 10 min

Craft: Make a booklet to study our spiritual armor. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Bible Study: Dig deeper into the weapons God provides us. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min

Game Materials Needed:

- Balloons of two different colors; two for every “furnace” plus extras
- Painters or masking tape; or chalk, yarn or string
- Timer: stopwatch, timer app, watch or clock with second hand
- Chalkboard and chalk; or whiteboard and marker
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

Teaching Materials Needed:

- Shield Pattern
- Holophone Pattern
- Scissors for children
- Balloon from Game
- Marker
- Pencils
- Table
- Optional: cardstock
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Chalkboard and chalk; or whiteboard or poster board and marker
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible App