

This series of 5 lessons is a 5 day (think VBS style) OR 5 week (think WHOLE CHURCH experience) that was designed to use while working on the musical
“It’s Cool in the Furnace” by Grace Hawthorne and Buryl Red
c. 1972, 1990 Word, Inc.

You could also use this material in conjunction with Grandma’s church/family/small group DANIEL LESSON SERIES found at:
<http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/daniel/> for a 12 session series.

OVERALL THEME: PRAISE IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES!!!!
(When I put God FIRST in my HEART I can PRAISE Him in ALL circumstances.)

BIBLE STORIES:

- Session 1: Taken from home and choosing how to live (Daniel 1)
- Session 2: The Dream (Daniel 2)
- Session 3: Four Men in the Furnace (Daniel 3)
- Session 4: The Writing on the Wall (Daniel 5)
- Session 5: Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6)

CAST/PARTS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Daniel - | King Neb - |
| Shadrach - | Meshach - |
| Abednego - | Guards - |
| Angel - | Magicians - |
| Lights & Sound & other stage crew – | |

PROCESSIONAL - This is the first song and will be “hummed”. It is repeated anytime King Neb comes out.

Shadrach - ALL KIDS: CHORUS

- solo 1:
- solo 2:

Jerusalem Town - ALL KIDS: CHORUS

- solo 1:
- solo 2:

ALL KIDS WILL SAY THE “YEA!”s AND “BOO!”s.

It Pays to Remember - ALL KIDS: CHORUS

- solo 1:
- solo 2:

Tra-la -

- solo 1:
- solo 2:
- solo 3:
- solo 4:
- solo 5:

Show Us the Dream - Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego only

Neb’s Decree - ALL KIDS: ECHOS, then CHANT TOGETHER

Know When to Say “no” - ALL KIDS LEARN

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel have all the solos.

It’s Cool in the Furnace - ALL KIDS: CHORUS

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel have all the solos.

Neb’s Decree - ALL KIDS: ECHOS, then CHANT TOGETHER

Let the People Praise - ALL KIDS: HUM/KAZOO MELODY, then ALL sing

SESSION 1 - Taken from home and choosing how to live (Daniel 1)

(Go to: <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/daniel/> for more resources.)

What is it like to learn a foreign language? If you know someone who is bilingual, have them come and teach some words or have name tags (in a foreign language) taped to items/places in your room/facility.

If you were to change your name, what name would you like? Why? Do you have a “nickname”? Do you like it? Would you like it if someone else was able to change your name?

Daniel means “God is judge”. Betlethazzar means “May Bel protect his life.”. Bel is an idol.

Hananiah means “God is gracious.” The name “Shadrach” has something to do with a moon god – an idol.

Mishael means “Who is what God is” but Meshach again has something to do with a moon god – an idol.

Azariah means “Whom God helps.” Abednego means “servant of Nebo – an idol.

Not only were their names changed to honor idols, but they were also told to eat food that was “blessed by” or “offered to” idols.

Have you ever done a science experiment? Those eating the royal food were like the “control” group. The king’s official knew what to expect from them. Daniel and his friends were the “variable” group. The king’s official was not sure what to expect but accepted Daniel’s challenge to try the experiment and observe the results. Daniel and his friends were allowed to honor God rather than idols with their food choices and their health.

What made Daniel and his friends special? Who got the credit for their being so special?

Do a little math! What is $10 \times$ _____? Use beans, or buttons, or pieces of paper, etc., to illustrate what “ $10 \times$ ” means. WOW! Is it really possible to be $10 \times$ better when you are in a foreign land with a different language and culture to learn? How is that possible?

Daniel and his friends are far from home, yet they are praising God.

MEMORY VERSE IDEAS:

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever, wisdom and power are his.” Daniel 2:20

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.” 1 Peter 2:12

GAME IDEAS:

“Guess the Veggie” – Have an assortment of bite sized vegetables. Feed them to a blindfolded person and see if they can name them. You might also want to cover their nose so they can’t smell the veggies.

Play Daniel BINGO – <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/its-cool-in-the-furnace/>

SNACK IDEAS:

- a variety of fresh vegetables and crackers

CRAFT/PROPS IDEAS:

Kazoos – GET/MAKE KAZOOS FOR EACH CHILD – decorate/label them. Perhaps, attach them to a necklace that can be worn during the performance and will enable them to be stored/kept until after the FINAL performance.

Make construction paper chains for “Jerusalem Town” to be held by the captives as they travel to Babylon.

Belts and hats will be needed to go over “tunics”, which can be made from donated sheets. (as there is time)

SONGS TO LEARN/PRACTICE:

(It is always a good idea to have a copy of the musical, in advance of the sessions, in each home. Be sure to have copyright permission if you are copying music!)

PROCESSIONAL - This is the first song and will be “hummed”. It is repeated anytime King Neb comes out.

Shadrach - ALL KIDS: CHORUS

solo 1:

solo 2:

Jerusalem Town - ALL KIDS: CHORUS

solo 1:

solo 2:

ALL KIDS WILL SAY THE “YEA!”s AND “BOO!”s.

It Pays to Remember - ALL KIDS: CHORUS

solo 1:

solo 2:

Session 2: The Dream (Daniel 2)

(Go to: <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/daniel/> for more resources.)

Do you have dreams? Do dreams have meaning? What do your dreams say about your day, your life, your future?

Can you tell someone the story that is in a book without looking in the book or seeing the pictures in the book? What if you had the chance to talk to the author of the book? What would you ask the author? What might you find out? Daniel asked the author (God) about what the dream was.

Why was the king angry with his advisors? If the king’s advisors couldn’t tell the king the dream, then the king decided he couldn’t trust their interpretation of the dream. Does that seem fair to you? His advisors thought that the king was asking for too much!

Who would you ask to help you if you were in trouble or needed to figure something out?

Daniel sounds so calm when he asks why he is going to be put to death. Daniel does the wise thing. He asks for time and prays for wisdom. He asks his friends to pray for wisdom too.

What is the king’s reaction to hearing about his dream? Who gets honor and praise because the dream is now known?

Daniel honors God when facing a hard challenge.

MEMORY VERSE IDEAS:

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever, wisdom and power are his.” Daniel 2:20

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.” 1 Peter 2:12

GAME IDEAS:

Play a “bowling” game. (The statue was knocked down by a large rock!) OR build a tower out of blocks and knock it down with a ball.

Play Daniel BINGO – <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/its-cool-in-the-furnace/>

SNACK IDEAS:

- a variety of fresh vegetables and crackers

CRAFT/PROPS IDEAS:

Draw a picture of the statue in Daniel 2:31-35. Attach the king’s response in Daniel 2:47.

Make a “dream” mobile using a moon and stars.

Make magician’s hats.

Make glow in the dark bracelets for “Show us the dream”.

Belts and hats will be needed to go over “tunics”, which can be made from donated sheets. (as there is time)

SONGS TO LEARN/PRACTICE:

(It is always a good idea to have a copy of the musical, in advance of the sessions, in each home. Be sure to have copyright permission if you are copying music!)

In addition to songs already learned/practiced, learn/practice these:

Tra-la -

solo 1:

solo 2:

solo 3:

solo 4:

solo 5:

Show Us the Dream - Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo only

Neb’s Decree - ALL KIDS: ECHOS, then CHANT TOGETHER

Session 3: Four Men in the Furnace (Daniel 3 - fire, “angel“, idol)

(Go to: <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/daniel/> for more resources.)

Have you ever been to a dedication? What do they do and why do they do it?

Threat of life persecution is a BIG deal, but not understood in all cultures. The pressure by peers to do something against God’s desires might better connect with some on a personal level.

Who did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego consider the REAL king?

Here’s another math lesson. What is $7 \times \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$? Use beans, or buttons, or pieces of paper, etc., to illustrate what “10 x” means. WOW! How hot is that?!? Why was the king so angry? What do we do when we get angry, and is that really helpful?

Who is with you in times of trouble? Do we only need someone when there is trouble? Who do we take for granted in times of peace?

Does all music honor God? Why do we need to be careful of what we listen to?

What do we expect to happen when a match touches paper? Cloth? Our skin? Why did that not happen this time? Who gets honored/praised because of this miracle?

When threatened, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego praise God with their choices.

MEMORY VERSE IDEAS:

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever, wisdom and power are his.” Daniel 2:20

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.” 1 Peter 2:12

GAME IDEAS:

Play musical chairs. (No, you won’t be thrown into the furnace if you don’t find a chair!...at least not a REAL one!)

Play Simon Says. Are you listening carefully for whether you should move/do or not move/do? How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego know whether they should bow down to the idol?

Play Daniel BINGO – <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/its-cool-in-the-furnace/>

SNACK IDEAS:

- a variety of fresh vegetables and crackers

CRAFT/PROPS IDEAS:

“It’s Cool in the Furnace” –preschool kids will march around Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego with gloves with streamers on them (waving them!) to represent fire. Older kids could make/wear sunglasses/fans.

Belts and hats will be needed to go over “tunics”, which can be made from donated sheets. (as there is time)

SONGS TO LEARN/PRACTICE:

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In addition to songs already learned/practiced, learn/practice these:

Know When to Say “no” - ALL KIDS LEARN

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel have all the solos.

It’s Cool in the Furnace - ALL KIDS: CHORUS

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel have all the solos.

Session 4: The Writing on the Wall (Daniel 5 - hand that is writing)

(Go to: <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/daniel/> for more resources.)

What kind of parties do you give or go to? Do you eat off the best plates? Drink out of the best glasses? Belshazzar had a party, but the goal of his party was not to honor guests. His goal was to honor his gods/idols. In order to “shame” other gods, Belshazzar used the items from the temple in Jerusalem for eating and drinking. God did not like this. Do you have something in your house that is used for a specific purpose that should not be used for anything else? (I am thinking of a current car commercial in which a man is using his wife’s toothbrush to clean his car.)

What is most unexpected thing you ever saw? An unconnected hand that is writing on the wall would get my attention!

Daniel had a good reputation and was called to help. What kind of reputation do you have and what do people ask you to help with?

Did Daniel want the rewards that the king offered? Why/why not?

Did Belshazzar honor/praise God?

Daniel praises God by telling the truth to an unfriendly king.

MEMORY VERSE IDEAS:

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever, wisdom and power are his.” Daniel 2:20

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.” 1 Peter 2:12

GAME IDEAS:

Play Pictionary. Can you tell what others are trying to communicate to you?

Play HANGMAN. Can you guess what the “writing on the wall” is?

Play Daniel BINGO – <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/its-cool-in-the-furnace/>

SNACK IDEAS:

- a variety of fresh vegetables and crackers

CRAFT/PROPS IDEAS:

Finger painting! - Finger paint a wall (bricks?) - a hand - writing?

Paint any backdrops needed for the performance.

Belts and hats will be needed to go over “tunics”, which can be made from donated sheets. (as there is time)

SONGS TO LEARN/PRACTICE:

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In addition to songs already learned/practiced, learn/practice these:

Neb's Decree - ALL KIDS: ECHOS, then CHANT TOGETHER

Let the People Praise - ALL KIDS: HUM/KAZOO MELODY, then ALL sing

Session 5: Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6 - lion, praying hands)

(Go to: <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/daniel/> for more resources.)

Who doesn't like you? Do they not like you for a good reason or a bad reason? Do we need to be liked by everybody? Why/why not?

Have you ever been tricked into doing something you shouldn't do? What is the best way to stop yourself before doing something stupid?

What do you continue to do even when others want you to stop? Do you have a good reason for continuing to do it?

What would you expect to happen if you spent the night with a group of lions? What did happen?

How do you know that God did a miracle? (What happened to the men who tricked the king?)

Who does the king praise for saving Daniel?

Daniel praises God by continuing to pray.

MEMORY VERSE IDEAS:

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever, wisdom and power are his." Daniel 2:20

"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us." 1 Peter 2:12

GAME IDEAS:

Play "Lion Tag" – Make lion face masks. Choose one lion. When the lion tags another person, they put on their lion face mask and join him in the tagging of others. When everyone is a lion, start the game over again with the last person tagged as the first lion.

Play Daniel BINGO – <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/its-cool-in-the-furnace/>

SNACK IDEAS:

- a variety of fresh vegetables and crackers

CRAFT/PROPS IDEAS:

Finish and try out all costumes and props needed for the performance.

Make lions as bookmarks or magnets.

Praying hand plaques or silhouettes

SONGS TO LEARN/PRACTICE:

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Practice and prepare for the performance!