



BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 37

FIERY FURNACE (DANIEL 3)

Scripture: Daniel 3

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: A gingerbread cookie or sugar cookie recipe of your choice (I will also offer one at the end of this lesson), cookies made the day before in the shapes of gingerbread men, frosting, knives, candies. OR cut outs and paper scraps to decorate.

Ask:

- What did we learn about last week? (The exile)
- Why did God allow the Israelites to be exiled? (They broke his laws and their promises to him, they worshiped idols)
- The next few weeks we are going to talk about stories that occurred while the Israelites were in exile.

Summarize

Today in our story, we're going to learn about 3 men. These men were taken from Judah. They were given great training in Babylon because they were handsome and smart. They would learn the language and literature of Babylon with hopes that they would serve in the King's palace. Babylon did this with their captives in order to make them want to live there and not rebel or long to return home. They were treated well and fed well. But earlier in this part of the Bible, they were given food that Jews were not allowed to eat because of the laws in Leviticus. Daniel and these three men stood firm and only ate vegetables and drank water. God was with them, and they looked healthier than all the others after ten days. Later, Daniel interpreted a dream for the king of Babylon. King Nebuchadnezzar was very thankful and made these men important among his rulers, but today, we're going to read a story where his heart turns against them. Let's learn about it.

Read: Daniel 3:1-6

Ask:

- Uh-oh. Who remembers why the Israelites got exiled? (They were worshiping other gods.)
- Let's see if our three men bow and worship King Nebuchadnezzar

Read: Daniel 3:7-15

Ask:

- What would you do in this scenario? (Allow for answers)
- It would feel really scary to be told this, wouldn't it?
- Let's see what our guys do next

Read: Daniel 3:16-18

Ask:

- Can you imagine saying that to one of the most powerful kings in the world? That took a lot of courage to stand up for what they believed in.
- I wonder if they had that courage because they had stood up for their beliefs before when they wouldn't eat the meat from the king's table. God had saved them then and they knew he could save them now.

Read: Daniel 3:19-30

Explain:

God did an incredible miracle! Not only did the three men not get burned, or even have the smell of smoke on them, they were joined in the fire by another man. Many people believe that this was either an angel or Jesus himself walking around in the fire with them.

Their incredible faith and trust in God led to an incredible miracle.

Activity

Because these men got thrown into the fire for standing up for God, I thought of cookies. These go through fire and come out delicious! So we are going to decorate our own Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednegos. We can also decorate the Angel of the Lord, and some soldiers.

Have different colors of frosting, knives, and candies available on a covered surface. Allow the kids to decorate the cookies and retell the story.

If you don't have access to cookies or an oven, have them cut out the gingerbread men and color them like the different characters of the story.

Apply:

We can trust God, too. It can be really hard and scary to stand up for what we know is right. We might get made fun of or left out. But we can trust that we're never alone. God can always save us, but even if he doesn't, we don't have to do what others are doing when we know it's wrong. God is so pleased when we stand up for him and for what's right.

- Is there a person you know at school who is bullied or made fun of? Could you stand up for them this week, even if it gets you made fun of?
- When someone asks you to do something you're not supposed to do, it's helpful to have an answer ready for why you won't do that. Take some time to think about your answers now, so you can be ready to stand up for your beliefs when someone asks you to go against them.

Comic Book Bibles:

Have the kids color the story of the Fiery Furnace in their comic book Bibles.

Memorize: Daniel 3:17-18

Close in Prayer



