

GOD GIVES ETERNAL LIFE

FOUNDATION: GOD IS KEEPER - GOD GIVES SECURITY

BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES ETERNAL LIFE

John 3:16-18; 6:40; Romans 10:11-13; 1 John 5:11

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

BIG IDEAS

- God gives eternal security and safety to His people.
- There is no danger that God cannot overcome.
- We can rest in God and do not have to worry.

BIBLE STORY: DANIEL 3

God's great provision of His people is exemplified in the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Their willingness to lose their lives in order to remain faithful to the one, true God is a great example to all followers of Christ. God's power over all things is evident as He kept the three faithful followers from experiencing any of the heat from the fiery furnace. Even if He had allowed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to perish in the furnace, they would still have received eternal security in their eternal life with Him. God protects His people. The three young men could trust God and rest in His great power regardless of the outcome.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS KEEPER - GOD GIVES SECURITY

God is keeper over all His creation. That means that God is not only greater than creation, but He is present in it. Everything in creation is held together by God Himself. Not only is God keeper of His creation, but He also keeps His promises. We can live confidently and securely knowing that He is in control and holds all things together for His glory. He has promised to redeem a people to himself, to finish the work He starts in believers, and to make all things new. When God starts something, we can rest securely in the fact that He will bring it to completion.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God keeps all of creation alive



Every child should feel:

- Aware that they cannot control things
- Awe that God does keep all things alive



Every child should be able to:

- Recognize ways that God keeps them, and the world, alive



Every child should want to:

- Show appreciation for God who daily keeps them alive

FAMILY DEVOTION:

THERE IS NO DANGER THAT GOD CANNOT OVERCOME

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced a literal fiery furnace. Their choice to not worship the idols that King Nebuchadnezzar had made was a choice that could have potentially cost them their lives when they were thrown into the fiery furnace. They did not despair, choosing instead to trust the one, true God for their safety.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS KEEPER - GOD GIVES SECURITY
GOD GIVES ETERNAL LIFE**BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:16**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

God is the giver of all life.

- God gives life to all things.
- God sustains life on the earth.
- God gives life because He loves man.
- God, the creator of all life, sustains life and gives life to all.

God loves all of the world and all of mankind.

- God gave the life of His only Son that mankind might have eternal life and healing.
- God not only sustains the earthly life for every living thing, but He provides a way for eternal life and healing, too.
- God did not withhold the most valuable thing to Him.
- He gave up His Son that mankind might have eternal healing and life.

God gives eternal life to those who repent and believe in Him.

- God provides eternal life to those who repent of their sins and place their faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.
- God sustains life on earth and makes a way for all men to have eternal life if they repent and believe.
- God determines all life---earthly and eternally.

BIBLE STORY: DANIEL 3*The Fiery Furnace*

Supporting Scripture: Psalm 121:3, 7; John 10:28-30; Jeremiah 32:17.

Teacher Introduction:

God is a mighty God who is the keeper of His people. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were three young men who knew this truth about God. They trusted with all their hearts that God would look out for them. They willingly allowed themselves to be thrown into a furnace heated to seven times its normal temperature and in doing so they showed the level of trust that every person of God can have in Him. He takes care of His people. He gives them eternal security and safety. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew that there was no danger to their lives that God could not overcome. They believed that He would rescue them from the furnace or they would enter into eternity held tightly in His hand. We, too, can rest in God and have no need to worry about any situation or circumstance that may happen in this earthly life. God is actively involved in the lives of His people and works every situation for His glory and their good, just as He did in the situation with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace. King Nebuchadnezzar saw the mighty work of the one, true God and praised Him for it. God was glorified as the young men were brought to safety.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the narrative: *The Fiery Furnace*. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Daniel 3 and teach the narrative: *The Fiery Furnace*. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson, questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the narrative: *The Fiery Furnace*.

Opening Illustration:

On the board, make a list of rules or expectations that the children's parents have for them. They should be generic things, such as "Do not hit another person". Ask the children to help you make the list if they can think of things their parents tell them not to do. Once you have your list, take turns asking the children to do what their parents ask them not to do. Only ask them once to disobey.

- I asked you to do what your parents told you not to as part of our lesson today. What would happen if you disobeyed your parents? (Allow them to share different answers.)
- Your parents are in charge of you and you should obey them. Just like God is in charge of us and we should obey Him. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were being asked to do something that would cause them to disobey God.
- They refused to do it, just like you refused to disobey parents. They were obedient.

BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES ETERNAL SECURITY AND SAFETY TO HIS PEOPLE.**God's people are eternally secure in Him.¹**

- Those who repent and believe in Jesus are eternally safe in Him. They cannot be separated from Him.
- God gives safety to His people. He provided safety to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego when they were faithful to Him.
- He protected them from the fiery furnace when they refused to bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's idols.
- God protects His people from any circumstance or situation that is harmful. His protection may mean that they suffer on this earth, but they are secure for all of eternity in Heaven.



Bring in a children's pop-up tent that you have taped red and yellow streamers to the inside of. Pretend the tent is the fiery furnace and take turns getting inside of it. Remind the children that God protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fire and they weren't burned just like the pop-up tent doesn't burn them.

God's people have security in Him on earth.²

- God is all-powerful and He protects His people according to His good will.
- God's people are safe even when facing difficult situations because they can never be separated from God.
- Though the three young men were thrown into the fiery furnace that was heated to seven times its normal temperature, they were protected by God.
- He kept them from being burned by the furnace.

God provides safety to His children.³

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were God's children. They were faithful to Him and refused to bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's idols.
- God kept them safe. They were protected from King Nebuchadnezzar and the fiery furnace.
- God is actively involved in the lives of His children.
- He protects them and keeps them safe according to His purposes.
- Nothing can remove them from His hand.

In whom do God's people have security? (They have security in God who is always watching out for them.)

1. Psalm 121:7: In our darkest circumstance, God is present and a great help to us. He is not far from us. He is involved in our lives.

2. John 10:28-30: Nothing can take God's children from Him. They are safe always with Him. Even if they die on this earth, they are secure in Him in Heaven for all of eternity.

3. Psalm 121:3: God watches over His children intently. He is actively involved in their lives and He holds them securely.

BIG IDEA: THERE IS NO DANGER THAT GOD CANNOT OVERCOME.**Nothing is too hard or dangerous for God.⁴**

- King Nebuchadnezzar was not more powerful than God.
- The fiery furnace was not too dangerous or too hot for God.
- God protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fiery furnace. He watched over them and kept them from being burned.
- Nothing that anyone faces in this world is too dangerous or difficult for God.



Bring in several red Solo cups with yellow flames attached to them and a small ball. Let the children take turns rolling the ball to knock down the "flames". Talk with them about how God controlled the fiery furnace and protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

God overcomes all that is dangerous.⁵

- The furnace was heated seven times as hot as it was normally heated up to.
- It was so hot that the men throwing Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the furnace were instantly burned up.
- Yet, the three young men were not burned in any way. They didn't even feel the heat of the furnace.
- God controls all things.
- He controlled the fiery furnace, just as He controlled King Nebuchadnezzar.
- God is in control of any and all dangerous things we face.

God overcomes every danger and provides eternal security.

- Nothing God's children face is too hard for God.
- God overcomes all things---hard or easy.
- He overcame the furnace and King Nebuchadnezzar's anger.
- He provided security for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
- He provides eternal security for His children, those who have placed saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Is there any danger that God cannot overcome? (No, there is nothing that God can't do.)

Was it easy or hard for God to protect Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fiery furnace? (It was easy. Nothing is too hard for Him.)

4. Jeremiah 32:17: God is the creator of all things. There is nothing that is too hard for Him.

5. Matthew 19:26: Things that are too hard for man are not too hard for God. Nothing is impossible with God. He is able to do anything and everything.

BIG IDEA: WE CAN REST IN GOD AND DO NOT HAVE TO WORRY.⁶**God's children have rest in Him.**

- Those who have repented and believed in Jesus Christ can rest in God.
- God cares for and protects His children.
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego could rest in God while in the furnace because they were His children.
- Even if they died in the furnace, they would never be separated from God.



Bring in several items that are used to provide us with protection, such as gloves, hats, reflective vests, etc. Take turns letting the children try them on. Lead them in a discussion about how these things give us protection from the cold, or help us be seen at night, but God gives us protection in all things and all the time.

God's children have eternal life in Him.

- God's children are secure in God on this earth and in eternity.
- They do not have to fear death because they will have eternal life in Heaven.
- God's children will not be separated from Him.
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had the promise of eternal life and they rested in this because they were God's children.

God's children do not have to worry about anything.

- God promises that nothing can separate His children from Him, even death.
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego could enter the furnace without fear because they were God's children.
- God's children can trust Him and rest in Him because He always keeps His promises and they are never separated from Him.

How can God's children have rest in Him? (He always keeps His promises and He's promised to take care of His children.)

6. Psalm 4:8: God's children can rest without worry because He cares for them and He watches out for them. They can trust in Him completely.

HOOKS

**God Can Overcome All Danger**

Bring in pictures of dangerous things, places, or animals. Help the children make a list on the board of some dangerous things, such as tornadoes, fires, floods, etc.



- Who is more powerful than any of these dangerous things? (God is more powerful than anything.)
- Even though these things are dangerous to us, they are not dangerous to God. He can overcome all dangerous things because He is more powerful than any other thing in the world.

**We Can Rest In God And Not Worry**

Bring in several large pillows and blankets and place in the front of the room.



- We know that God is all-powerful and nothing is too hard for Him.
- Because God is all-powerful and He can do anything, we can rest in Him.
- What does it mean to rest? (It means to not worry about anything or think about anything that bothers you.)
- Let the children take turns “resting” on the pillows with the blankets.
- We can rest the same way in God. We can give Him our worries or the things that bother us and we can trust Him to take care of it.

God Gives Eternal Security

Bring in an orange, a clear, tall container and some water. Pour the water in the clear container. Drop the orange in the water and watch it float. Next, take the orange out and peel it. Drop it back in the water and watch it sink.

- The orange floated when it had its protective covering on, the peel.
- The peel is like God’s protection of us. Nothing can hurt us when God is protecting us.
- When we took the peel off of the orange, it sank because we removed its protective covering.
- God gives eternal security and protection to His children.