



KEY NOTES: RAINFOREST FALLS SUMMER

Discovering God's character is a great adventure! Every story in the Bible shines a light on who God is—His love, power, faithfulness, and grace. Every story we explore this summer will show us amazing truths about God that are revealed to us in the Bible. The more we learn about our Creator, the more we understand who we are and how deeply we are loved. It gives us confidence to trust Him in every moment.

Let's explore the nature of God!

Grace Airways Rainforest Falls Curriculum in Children's Ministry will focus on discovering God's character through Bible stories. Each story chosen highlights a specific attribute of God.

SUMMER PSALM—let's all learn Psalm 23 to give the students consistent excitement and practice each week! We will practice all summer to create a video to share with the rest of Grace Community Church at the Fall-Kick off (Sept 13th) on the big screen.

Key Dates:

July 11th GCC BBQ (baptisms)

Aug 23rd All Sunday Teams Fall Training

Aug 30th Film all classes doing the Summer Psalm

Sept 13th FALL KICKOFF

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER



JOB



**TOWER
OF BABEL**



TABERNACLE



**BALAM
& BALAK**



**THE ARK
RETURNS**



**ELIJAH &
MT CARMEL**



EZEKIEL



FIERY FURNACE



HOLY SPIRIT



**PHILIP & THE
ETHIOPIAN**



**PAUL MET
JESUS**



PRODIGAL SON



**CHILDREN
OF GOD**

Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co -Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co -pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

leader bible study

In 587 B.C., the Babylonians laid siege to Jerusalem, and God's people were exiled to Babylon where they would serve an enemy king for 70 years. (See Jer. 25:11.) Among the early exiles was a young man, Daniel, and three of his friends. About 20 years after arriving in Babylon, the three friends faced a test of their faith. King Nebuchadnezzar's law gave them a choice: worship a statue (against God's law) or face death by fiery furnace. (Dan. 3:6)

Three men from Judah—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—refused to bow down and worship the statue. They loved and worshiped the one true God. Only He was worthy of their worship. The Book of Daniel says that the Chaldeans—a group of astrologers and dream interpreters (see Dan. 2:2,4)—took this opportunity to go to the king and tell on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But not even the threat of death could convince the three friends to renounce their loyalty to God.

As you teach, lead kids to consider the possibilities: God could keep the friends from being thrown into the furnace. Or, once in the furnace, God could keep them from being harmed. Or if they perished, God would receive them into heaven. The friends' trust in God enabled them to stand firm no matter what—even as they were tied up and thrown into the fire.

Then something miraculous happened. Nebuchadnezzar saw *four* men in the fire! They were walking around, unharmed! The Lord not only rescued Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, He was with them.

On the cross, people mocked Jesus: "He saved others, but he cannot save himself!" (Mark 15:31). Jesus was not physically unable to save Himself. He chose to do His Father's will, and His love for sinners kept Him there. Jesus chose not to save Himself so that He could save others.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPQ and A & Summer Psalm
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to think about a time when they did what was right even though friends or siblings were doing something wrong. Was it easy to do the right thing?

Summer Truth

We can explore the nature of God

Big Picture Question

How can we know what God is like?

We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible

Summer Psalm

Psalm 23 ESV

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.

Our story today takes place later in the Old Testament. Israel had turned away from God, and God allowed them to be taken over by the Babylonians. Many Israelites were exiled to Babylon, where they didn't worship the true God. Even in Babylon, God protected his people. Let's learn about a time when God protected 3 friends who refused to worship something other than the true God.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **Daniel 3**. Daniel is a book in the Old Testament and this story happened during the exile. Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

God's people had been taken into captivity. They now lived as strangers in Babylon. The people of Babylon didn't worship the one true God. They worshiped false gods and idols. The ruler of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar, set up a giant statue and demanded that the people worship it whenever they heard any music. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down to the statue like everyone else. They could have blended into the crowd and no one would have known. But God would have known. The three friends loved God. They knew that worshipping anyone or anything else was sin. Only God deserves worship. The three friends were willing to die in order to obey God.

I love how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego responded to the king. They knew that God was powerful and able to protect them from the flames. But they also knew that if God didn't save them from the fire, He was still good. God allowed them to be thrown into the fire, but they were not harmed, and they didn't even smell like smoke!

God showed Himself faithful to the three friends even though He did not keep them from being put in the fiery furnace. Instead, God showed His power to King Nebuchadnezzar and everyone who was watching that day. God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire. Only He could rescue them. God rescues us too, through His Son, Jesus. Only Jesus can save us from our sin. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross provided the way for us to be rescued from sin and have eternal life.

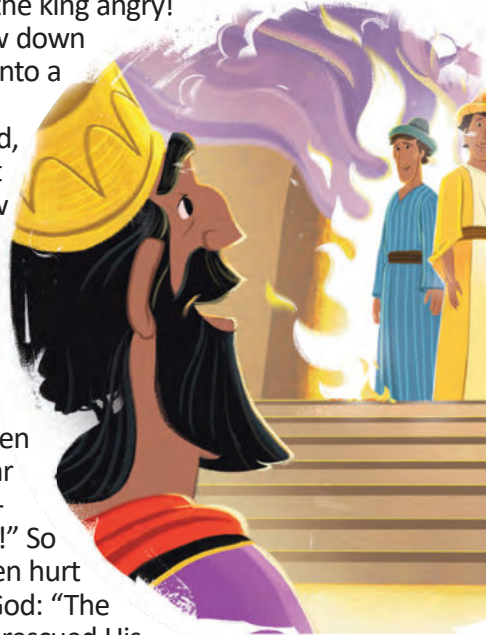
Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: GOD IS OUR PROTECTOR JUST AS HE PROTECTED THE THREE FRIENDS

King Nebuchadnezzar made a tall gold statue. His official announced to all the people of Babylon: “When you hear music, you must fall down and worship this statue. Anyone who doesn’t will be thrown into a fiery furnace!”

Three friends from Judah—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—refused to bow down to a statue. This news made the king angry! He called for the friends. “If you do not bow down when you hear the music, I will throw you into a fiery furnace! Then what god could rescue you from my power?” The friends answered, “The God we serve is able to rescue us. But even if God chooses not to, we will not bow down and worship the statue.” King Nebuchadnezzar told some of his soldiers to throw the friends into the fiery furnace.

Suddenly, the king jumped up. “Didn’t we tie up three men and throw them into the fire? Look!” the king shouted. “I see four men walking around in the fire.” Nebuchadnezzar shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego—servants of the Most High God! Come here!” So they came out of the fire. They had not been hurt by the fire at all. Nebuchadnezzar praised God: “The God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego rescued His servants! No other god can save people like this!”



Christ Connection: God showed Himself faithful to the three friends even though He did not keep them from being put in the fiery furnace. Instead, God showed His power to King Nebuchadnezzar and everyone who was watching that day. God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire. Only He could rescue them. God rescues us too, through His Son, Jesus. Only Jesus can save us from our sin. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross provided the way for us to be rescued from sin and have eternal life.

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find Daniel 3. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **As we explore God's nature in this story, what attribute of God do you see?** God is **our Protector**
2. **What did King Nebuchadnezzar threaten to do to anyone who would not worship the statue?** Throw them in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:6)
3. **How did God protect Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire?** God kept them from being harmed - the fire had no effect on them and they didn't even smell like smoke (Daniel 3:27).
4. **What are some of the other ways God could have protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?** God could have made King Nebuchadnezzar decide to let them go, or he could have let them die and taken them to heaven. **Would these outcomes mean that God is not our protector?** No!
5. **Why might God have allowed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to go through the fire?** God used this scary situation to build the friends' faith and others - including ours. God used the situation to show King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians that He alone is worthy of being worshiped. Their story helps us know that we can trust God to protect us when we're scared.



God's attributes- In today's story we see that God is:

OUR PROTECTOR

15 min Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Find the Fourth in the Flames

We'll provide the supplies for this game, but you're welcome to choose a different activity. Just let us know if you need something else prepared.

Supplies: red solo cups decorated with flames

Print outs of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and the fourth man

A foam ball and a pool noodle

Before the kids get there, set out all the cups and hide the 4th figure under one of the cups. Make a mental note of where the man is hidden.

When the game starts, have the kids hide the figures of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego under 3 of the cups. Direct them to specific cups so they don't accidentally find the 4th man. Tell the kids we're going to knock over all the cups to find the three friends in the fire.

Have the kids take hitting a ball with the pool noodle to knock down a cup. Keep going until all the cups are knocked over. Make sure to react with excitement when the 4th man is found.

Getting Warmer

Hide a small toy or plastic treasure somewhere in the room.

Challenge the kids to find the item. Give clues as kids move about the room, saying "getting warmer" or "getting colder" depending on how close to, or far from, the object kids move. As kids get very near to finding the object, use hyperbole such as "you are burning up!" or "you are on fire!" to emphasize how close they are.

- Obviously, none of you actually caught fire or were burned by getting close to the hidden toy. In real life, fire can be very dangerous, and being on fire is often deadly. Today heard about three men who faced a fiery furnace. Who remembers what happened to them?

Fire Cup Knockdown

Form teams of three kids. Give each team three red plastic cups. Distribute blue foam balls evenly among the teams. The teams will stack their cups in a pyramid to represent flames. Teams will then take turns tossing “water” balls to put out the “flames.” For each cup a kid knocks down, that kid’s team receives a point. Teams may rebuild their “fires” after each team’s turn. The team with the most points after five rounds of turns wins. Mix up the teams and play again if time allows.

- It may have been pretty easy for you to put out your “fires,” but it wouldn’t have been easy to put out the fire in the hot furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God despite the fear they certainly felt. They knew God was powerful enough to save them, but even if He didn’t, they would never bow down to Nebuchadnezzar’s statue. **God protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the king.**

5 min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide***.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor’s house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don’t know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus’ light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're
ready
for
Sunday!

