

WSC_SG G23 | W2

Today's Suggested Schedule

Small group : 10:00-10:25 / 11:45-12:10

Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (15 minutes)

Activity One

Activity Two

Pray & Dismiss (5 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



Bible Story

A Gold Statue and a Blazing Furnace • Daniel 3

Bottom Line

God is with me, so I can stand for what's true.

Memory Verse

God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.

• Psalm 46:1 NIV

Greeting & Prayer

Activity One

23 - Into the Fire

What You Need

 Furnace Prop	Several
 Small Chair	1
 Simple costume pieces (Crowns, Scarves)	Several
 Musical Instruments	1
 Role name labels	1

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

What You Do:

During the Activity

- Gather the kids near the "furnace."
- Say: "Today we're going to act out our Bible Story together!"
- Give each child a role label.
- Give extra children an **Audience** label. Tell them they can watch, react, bow down with the crowd, and cheer during the story.

Act Out the Story

- Invite **King Nebuchadnezzar** to sit on his throne.
Say: "King Nebuchadnezzar made a HUGE gold statue. He told everyone they had to bow down and worship it!"
- Have the **Musicians** pretend to play their instruments.
Say: "When the music played, everyone bowed down!"
- Ask the **Royal Officials** and **Audience** to bow down.
Say: "But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did NOT bow down. They worshiped the One True God!"
- Have the **Royal Officials** tell the king that the three friends did not bow.
- Invite **King Nebuchadnezzar** to stand and say: "Bow down, or you will be thrown into the blazing furnace!"
Ask Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: "Will you bow down?"
- Encourage them to say together: "No!"
Say: "They trusted that God would be with them no matter what happened."

Into the Furnace

Say: "The furnace got hotter... and hotter... and hotter!"

- Guide Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace area.
Say: "Wait! The king put THREE people into the furnace..."
- Point to the furnace and say: "But now there are FOUR!"
- Invite the **Fourth Figure** to stand beside the three friends.
Say: "God was with them in the fire!"

Safe From the Fire

- Invite Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to walk safely out of the furnace.

- Pretend to check them:
 - Look at their hair.
 - Check their clothes.
 - Sniff the air.

Say: *"They were not burned at all! Not even their clothes smelled like smoke!"*

- Encourage the **Audience** and everyone else to cheer.

Wrap Up

- Gather everyone together and sit down.

Say: *"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God, even when things were scary. God was with them in the fire, and God is always with us too!"*

What You Say:

"What an incredible story! Can you imagine how hard it must have been for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to stay standing while EVERYONE else bowed down? They knew they could get in huge trouble. They knew the king was angry. They knew the furnace was real. But they also knew something even more important was true: God was with them. The three friends didn't stay standing because they were the strongest people in the room. They stood strong because they trusted the strongest One—God. Even before they stepped into the fire, they believed God was with them. And when they were thrown into the furnace, God stayed with them there too! Sometimes we might think following God should make life easy. But this story reminds us that following God doesn't always mean we avoid hard things. Sometimes God rescues us from difficult situations, and sometimes He walks with us through them. Either way, we are never alone. And just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, there may be times when you feel pressure to go along with what everyone else is doing – even when you know it's wrong. Maybe everyone else is being unkind. Maybe everyone else is lying. Maybe everyone else is watching or saying something that doesn't honor God. In those moments, it can feel hard to stand out. But you can remember this truth: **[Bottom Line] God is with me, so I can stand for what's true.** When God is with you, you never stand alone!"

5 min

Activity Two

5 min

Stand Strong

What You Need

 Floor tape

1

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Use tape to create a line across the Small Group space.
- Designate one side of the space as **"Go Along"** and designate the opposite side as **"Stand Strong"**.

During the Activity:

- Gather kids in the middle of the space near the tape line.
- Say: "We're going to hear different situations that kids like you might actually face. After each one, you'll decide what choice you would make."
- Explain:
 - If the situation describes "going along with the crowd," move to the **"Go Along"** side.
 - If the situation describes "standing for what's true," move to the **"Stand Strong"** side.
 - There are no trick questions.
 - Everyone should move honestly.
- Practice with a fun example:
 - "Your friend wants to eat pizza for dinner."
 - Allow kids to choose either side.
- Begin scenarios.
- **Scenario 1:**
 - "Your teacher leaves the room for a minute. A bunch of kids start talking loudly, and you join in even though you know you're supposed to stay quiet."
 - Kids move to the side they think matches the choice being made.
 - Say: "That choice would go on the 'Go Along' side because in the scenario, the kid followed the crowd instead of doing what they knew was right. Sometimes it feels easier to do what everyone else is doing, even when we know better."
- **Scenario 2:**
 - "Some kids start making fun of someone, but you choose not to laugh and instead say something kind."
 - Kids move to the side they think matches the choice being made.
 - Say: "That choice belongs on the 'Stand Strong' side because kindness takes courage. It can feel scary to be different from the crowd, but God helps us stand for what's true."
- **Scenario 3:**
 - "You forgot to do your homework, so you blame your little brother instead of telling the truth."
 - Kids move to the side they think matches the choice being made.
 - Say: "That choice is on the 'Go Along' side because that would be choosing the easy way out instead of honesty. Telling the truth can be hard sometimes, especially when we're afraid of consequences."

- **Scenario 4:**

- "Your friends dare you to break a rule at recess, and you do it because you don't want them to think you're boring."
- Kids move to the side they think matches the choice being made.
- Say: "That choice would also go on the 'Go Along' side because the kid in the scenario let pressure from friends make the decision for them. Sometimes we care so much about what others think that we forget to make the wise choice."

- **Scenario 5:**

- "You notice a kid sitting alone at lunch, and even though you feel nervous, you go sit beside them anyway."
- Kids move to the side they think matches the choice being made.
- Say: "That choice belongs on the 'Stand Strong' side because kindness and courage often go together. Standing strong is not just about saying 'no' to wrong things—it's also about choosing to go above and beyond in showing God's love to others."

- **Scenario 6:**

- "A friend wants you to lie for them so they don't get in trouble, but you decide to tell the truth instead."
- Kids move to the side they think matches the choice being made.
- Say: "That choice belongs on the 'Stand Strong' side because telling the truth is the wise thing to do. A real friend helps others make good choices instead of hiding wrong ones."
- After the final round, gather kids back together.

What You Say:

"You all made some brave choices today. Some of those situations probably felt easy, but others may have felt harder because real life can be complicated. Sometimes we know what the right choice is, but we still feel pressure to go along with everyone else. That's exactly what happened in today's Bible story. When the music played, everyone bowed down to the statue except Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Imagine how obvious they must have looked standing there while the entire crowd was on the ground! They could have chosen the easy way. They could have blended in. But they chose to stand for what was true because they trusted God more than they feared the crowd. Standing for truth doesn't always mean doing something huge and dramatic. Sometimes it looks like telling the truth. Sometimes it means being kind when others are mean. Sometimes it means walking away from something you know is wrong. Sometimes it means choosing to obey what God has called us to do, even when nobody else is. And here's the amazing part: God doesn't ask you to stand strong all by yourself. The same God who was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is with you too! When you follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps you choose courage, wisdom, kindness, and truth. So, the next time you feel pressure to go along with the crowd, remember this: **[Bottom Line] God is with me, so I can stand for what's true.**"

Prayer

Prayer:

"God, thank You for always being with us. Thank You that You are strong when we feel weak and that we never have to stand alone. Please help us stand for what is true, even when it feels difficult or when others around us are making different choices. Give us courage to follow You, wisdom to make good choices, and peace when we feel nervous or unsure. Help us remember this week that You are our helper, our refuge, and our strength wherever we go. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen

Supplies

23 - Into the Fire

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | Furnace Prop | Several |
| 2. | Small Chair | 1 |
| 3. | Simple costume pieces(Crowns, Scarves) | Several |
| 4. | Musical Instruments | 1 |
| 5. | Role name labels | 1 |

Stand Strong

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|------------|---|
| 1. | Floor tape | 1 |
|----|------------|---|