LESSON 16

THE FIERY FURNACE



Aim: **To show the children how God preserved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego through a terrible trial.**

Scripture Reading: **Daniel 3:19-30**

It would be best to read the whole chapter to give the background of today's reading.

Memory Verse: **The Ten Commandments**
No new memory verse.

Review the commandments that have been learnt so far.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

Talk about fire. What do we use fire for? Give the children time to respond. It is very useful for cooking, warmth and light. But it can also bring harm. The flames can burn us and sometimes fire kills, like when a house burns down.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were facing terrible punishment by fire. **Revise last week's story. Show Picture 15 and ask questions referring to it.**
2. As the three friends remained faithful to the living God and would not bow before the golden statue, the angry King Nebuchadnezzar made the furnace hotter than before. It was so hot that the flames killed the soldiers who had to take in Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego while the king watched (Dan 3:19-23).
3. The king could not believe it when he saw four men, not three, in the furnace, and they were walking around freely. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had been firmly tied up when they were thrown in! **Show Picture 16.** God miraculously saved them by sending his messenger to protect them (3:24-25).
4. Nebuchadnezzar told Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to come out of the fire. He realised that no god he knew could have saved people like that, only the true God, the Most High (3:26-29).

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Our Response to the Story

Remind the class of some of the stories you have told them over the past few weeks, of when God performed a miracle to protect or heal someone. In these lessons there are the healing of Namaan (Lesson 2), the protection of Elisha (Lesson 2 and 3), the end of the siege of Samaria (Lesson 6), the saving of Jonah and Nineveh (Lesson 8) and the good health of Daniel and his friends (Lesson 13).

A man full of anger and revenge once tried to knife a Christian missionary, but the knife simply would not go through the Christian's clothes. Much later the would-be killer became interested in Christianity and asked to meet the missionary he had tried to kill. He confessed to what he had tried to do and said he was glad the missionary had been wearing a protective jacket on the day of the attack. But the missionary answered that he had worn only ordinary clothes!

God still protects his servants miraculously. Often we discover only afterwards that it was a miracle. Come, let us thank God for his loving protection.

Instil the Memory Verse

Review all the verses of Exodus 20 learnt so far.



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