



Grace Church Elementary

Camp Grace

LESSON 45 SKIT

Principle: Trusting God no matter what the consequences.

Bible Character(s): Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego

Scripture Reference: Daniel 1, 3



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read through Daniel 1 and

3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego believed and trusted in God's sovereignty. They were willing to lose everything in order to follow God, trusting that, whether they lived or died, God was in control. Is your life characterized by a deep trust and belief in God? We will probably never be asked to sacrifice our physical lives, but are you willing to sacrifice your time, money and possessions? Is your belief and trust in a sovereign God stronger than your desire to live a certain kind of life? When we choose to follow Christ, we are not promised lives without struggles and hardships. Are you willing to trust that God is sovereign, even in the heat of the furnace?



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

1) Run-through/Prayer

Run-through order of service (assigned parts, transitions, slides for music and skit, video if applicable, etc), assign door greeters, pray

2) Welcome Cabins

3) Intro Song

4) Camp Competition

Bucket Head

Have one camp counselor and one camper come up to the front. Line the camp counselors up side-by-side have them kneel. 1st and 2nd grade campers should be 3 feet away and 3rd and 4th grade campers 5 feet away. Give each counselor a bucket to place it on top of his/her head. Give each camper 5 Ping-Pong balls. Explain that the first camper to toss 3 balls in the bucket wins the camp

banner. You may want to have the counselors wear safety goggles (more for humor than for safety!). Compete in heats as number of buckets and amount of space allows.

5) Worship

Worship Connector: Do you remember when we talked about God being sovereign? Does anyone remember what sovereign means? Sovereign means in control of everything. God is sovereign. Nothing happens without God allowing it to happen. Today we are going to talk about three men that believed this and trusted in God completely, even when they knew they might die. As we sing this next song, think about whether you trust in the Lord and believe that He has a plan for you. Are willing to follow God no matter what happens or how hard things get?

6) Skit

Obedience to Authority

7) Dismiss Cabins

Drama member dismisses cabins

ProPresenter:

Slide #1: Daniel 3:17-18 "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

Slide #2: Ephesians 6:5-7 "Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."

Characters:

Storyteller

Staff Member #1

Props:

Plunger

Toilet brush

Rubber gloves

Sound FX:

Toilet flushing

Script:

(*** Note: Put some oomph into your storytelling. This is an exciting story on its own, but it's up to you, as the storyteller, to bring it to life for the children. Pray for God to cause your gift of storytelling to increase for His glory. Also, the story is long. All the details of the story needed to be included

in an effort to help the children understand how difficult it was for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to obey the authority over them.)

Storyteller: Hi! My name is_____ and I'm here to tell you an exciting story from God's Word, the Bible. Some of you have heard the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. This story comes from the book of Daniel in our Bibles. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were three Israelite guys who were taken from their home by King Nebuchadnezzar to his kingdom far away. They were taken from everything familiar to them and forced to live a very different kind of life than the one they had lived. Now, these were no ordinary, run of the mill kind of guys. If I could compare them to anyone at all I would say Kobe Bryant, Brad Pitt, Michael Phelps, Einstein, and well maybe even Matt Williams all rolled into one. (Use your own examples of modern day sports heroes, handsome actors, and intelligent people here.) What I'm saying is that these guys were the strongest, best looking, and most intelligent guys around. King Nebuchadnezzar fed these young men special foods to make them stronger. He even had teachers who instructed the guys in various subjects. They were forced to speak a different language than the Hebrew they knew. They were even forced to go by different names than their own. It was the king's design to have strong, powerful, and intelligent men serving him. He wanted to control everything about these young men. Just imagine how that must have been for these guys. They were taken from their home and everyone they loved, with no hope of ever returning. They were forced to live in a way they had never lived before. They had to give up their language and even their names to do everything the king commanded. (Pause.) And, you know what? They did it. They didn't whine and complain, "This isn't fair! I want to go home!" As difficult as it was for them, they obeyed the authority over them.

***Sound FX: toilet flushing

Staff Member: (Comes from the bathroom carrying cleaning supplies.) Oh, I'm sorry. I forgot you guys would be out here. Don't mind me. I'm just cleaning all the bathrooms.

Storyteller: You're cleaning the bathrooms? I thought that was Jetterbob's job.

Staff Member: (Begins to walk on stage. **Be sure to project your voice.) Well, normally, it is, but the Camp Director asked me to do it. Apparently, Jetterbob needed a little help this weekend.

Storyteller: Did the Camp Director tell you why Jetterbob needed your help?

Staff Member: No. I didn't really ask any questions, though. The Camp Director asked me to do it, so, I'm doing it.

Storyteller: But, cleaning the toilets is a messy job. Aren't you a little upset that YOU have to do this? Why not someone else?

Staff Member: Oh, believe me, I know just how hard this job is. (Look at campers.) Some of you leave a big mess in the bathroom. I don't know why the Camp Director asked me to do it, but again, I was asked and I obeyed.

Storyteller: You know, just before you came out, we were talking about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. I was explaining how terrible it was for them to be taken so far away from home and to be forced to live a very unfamiliar life. They didn't whine and complain, they just obeyed the authority over them. It's great that you showed up at the flush of the toilet like you did. In your own way, you're obeying like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Even though you didn't understand why you needed to clean the bathrooms, you did what you were asked to do by the authority over you.

Staff Member: Well, I'm no Shadrach, Meshach, or Abednego. (Say it as if being compared to a very famous athlete or movie star.) Cleaning a few toilets is nothing compared to what they went through. And, like you said, they obeyed without whining and complaining. They obeyed King Nebuchadnezzar because they knew that he didn't get his authority to rule on his own. Who is the only One who can give authority? Do you know? (God) So, to obey King Nebuchadnezzar, was to obey God. There was one time they didn't obey, though.

Storyteller: Right. I was going to get to that. Why don't you tell us about it, since you're here.

Staff Member: Well, as you've probably figured out, King Nebuchadnezzar was full of himself. He wanted to be the most powerful king around. During the time that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abenego were living in King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, he had an image of gold constructed that stood ninety feet tall and nine feet wide. He wanted to unite his kingdom as no other kingdom had ever been united. So, he commanded that whenever the people heard a sound of all kinds of music being played at once, that was their signal to fall down and worship his gigantic gold statue. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego heard the music, but didn't bow. It wasn't because they weren't playing their song, either. They chose not to obey because they were being asked to worship an idol. They knew that they were to stay true to God, no matter what.

Storyteller: King Nebuchadnezzar didn't like it at all when he heard that these three didn't participate in the worship of his big hunk of junk. He was furious with rage. He sent for the three Israelites and said that if they didn't worship the statue, he would have them thrown in the furnace.

***SLIDE 1

Staff Member: I love what they said to the king. They said, "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty." Then, and here's the cool part, they said, "But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

Storyteller: As you can imagine, their words made the king even more mad. He ordered that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual and that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be tied up. When the soldiers were throwing Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace, the heat coming from the furnace killed the soldiers.

The king immediately jumped to his feet when one of his advisers said, "Weren't there three men in the furnace? I see four men, who are not tied up, walking around in the furnace. One of those men looks like the son of gods." Nebuchadnezzar yelled for them to come out. The three Israelites came out completely unharmed. Not a hair on their heads had burned. They didn't even smell like fire.

The king praised the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These three guys trusted in their God, defied the king and were willing to give up their lives rather than to serve any other god but the one true God.

Staff Member: So, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego obeyed everything the king instructed. They respected the authority placed over them, even when they didn't always understand or agree. The one time they didn't obey was when they were asked to go against God. That's what we should all do. We should always obey those in authority over us, unless that authority asks us to do something that goes against God.

Storyteller: Authority is a big word. It just means someone who can tell us what to do. Let's think of some examples. Who has authority over you? (Let the campers give examples: teachers, parents, adults, cabin counselors, the government, etc.) Those are great examples of authority. I may not always want to clean my room when my mom tells me to, but I need to just obey her because she is the authority over me. I may not understand why my teacher tells me to do ten extra problems, but I obey.

Staff Member: And, I may not want to clean the toilets at Camp Grace. Who would want to do that? But, I obey. (**SLIDE 2) The reason I obey is because Ephesians 6:5-7 tells me that when I obey those over me, I'm obeying Christ. I want to obey Him, no matter what.

Storyteller: Let's pray, and let the campers get back to their cabins to learn more.

Father, You control everything. Nothing happens without You allowing it. No one has authority without You giving it. Help us remember to obey all authority unless that authority goes against You. Help us to always obey You. Amen.



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