

Things to take:

- Question box with pens & paper
- Door welcome sign, register & rules
- Signs saying 'True' and 'False'
- List of facts
- Play-Doh
- Memory Verse Sign
- Signs saying 'Port' and 'Starboard'
- Inserts for fun files
- Every Move I Make* by Christ Music Kids (Available on Amazon for £0.79)

Session Aim:

To explain to children that it's important to put God first, even when it's difficult to do so. In that difficulty God will not abandon us.

"I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:20

3. Protection: The story of Daniel's friends

Game as they arrive and register: Simon* Says

One person is Simon*. Any order they give must be obeyed, as long as it is preceded by the words 'Simon* says...'. If this introduction is not used, then the order must be ignored.

*Other names also acceptable!

Game: True/False

Put two signs on opposite sides of the room; one says 'True', the other 'False'. Read out a fact, and get the children to stand by the relevant sign. Facts can be general knowledge, about leaders, or obscure/wacky ones. See if you can encourage the children to think about whether or not they're following the crowd.

Pray for today's session

Rules

Answer question box from last week

Ask if anyone can remember memory verse from last week:

"Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power." Daniel 2:20

Memory verse

"I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20

Make two teams, one boys the other girls. See who can remember the verse as a group first. Then see who can shout the verse the loudest.

Bible bit Daniel 3

King Nebuchadnezzar ordered a giant golden statue to be built. He made a law commanding everyone to bow down and worship the statue whenever they heard the king's special music.

But Shadrack, Meshech, and Abednego refused to worship the statue. They would only worship the one true God.

So the king ordered that these young men be thrown into a huge fiery furnace. But first he said, "Make the fire seven times hotter than usual!"

The king watched as they were thrown into the furnace. "Weren't only three men thrown into the fire?" asked the king. His servants agreed. "But I see four men," he said, "and one of them looks like a god!" The king approached the furnace. "Shadrack, Meshack, Abednego!" he yelled, "servants of the Most High God, come out!"

And so the three came out. Nothing on them was burnt, and they didn't even smell of smoke.

"Your God is great!" cried the king. "He sent His angel to rescue you. From now on, no one will be allowed to say anything bad about your God. There is no God who can save like the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!"

Talk

Give everyone some Play-Doh, and tell them to make a person about the same size as yours (make one beforehand 11cm tall and 3cm wide). Explain that the height of you in contrast to the height of the Play-Doh people is similar to the height of Nebuchadnezzar's statue in relation to the height of Daniel's friends. It was an imposing statue and when everyone else was bowing down to it, it would have been very hard not to do the same. But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego all had the courage to do just that. They honoured God even when it was really difficult to do so, and God honoured them; protecting them when they were in the fire. As a result of this Nebuchadnezzar told everyone how great God was, and gave Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego more respect.

Testimony:

Get a leader to share a time when it was difficult to follow God.

Group Prayer: God, please help us to have the courage to stand up for you even when it's really hard, and thank you that you are faithful and look after us.

Response: Remind children about the question box and see if anyone can remember the memory verse. Give out the fun file inserts and get them to complete the memory verse.

Song & Actions: *Every Move I Make by Christ Music Kids*

Game: *Pirate Ship*

The group are members of a pirate ship. One side of the room is designated 'starboard' (right) and the other port (left). The leader calls out instructions which each person has to carry out as quickly as possible.

Captain's coming – Everyone has to jump to attention and salute saying 'Aye aye Cap'n'

Captain's lady – Everyone curtsies

Scrub the decks – Down on their knees doing a scrubbing action

Climb the rigging – Everyone pretends to climb rigging

Man overboard – Pretend to look over the side

Walk the plank – Children have to walk in a perfect straight line, one foot in front of the other with arms outstretched to the sides

Shark attack – Use arms as a big snapping jaws of the shark

Hit the deck – Lie down on floor as quickly as possible

Port – run to left of the deck

Starboard – run to right of the deck

Amidships – return to the middle of the deck

Periscopes up – lie on back with leg in air

Man the lifeboats in groups of [number] – get into groups of [number] and start rowing

Pray: Kids Rock prayer before they leave.