



Week 3 – Elementary
Additional Resources for Parents

MUSIC: This Little Light of Mine

This is a pretty common song, but what you may not know is that during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, when people like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were marching for the right for everyone to be treated the same, no matter what color their skin was, they really liked to sing songs while they marched. It helped them remember God was with them and that gave them courage, because honestly, it was a pretty scary time for them. And this song was one of the songs the Civil Rights marchers loved to sing! So, let's think about that while we hear it and think about how maybe it gives us a little strength, too. Sing along, if you'd like!

INSTRUCTIONS: Play or show the video for “This Little Light of Mine” Kids.

ACTIVITY: Hot Statue

INSTRUCTIONS: This is a spin-off of the game, Hot Potato. The kids will sit in a circle and as the music plays, they will pass a golden object (a random bowling trophy, a dollar store Barbie spray-painted gold, anything works as long as it's gold and statue-like). Play the music and pause it at random. When the music stops, whoever is holding the golden object is out. Play until there are three players left. For very small groups, you can play until there is just one player left.

Okay, everyone knows the game Hot Potato, right? Well, today we're going to play Hot Statue. When the music starts, you pass it around in a circle. When it

stops, if you're holding it, you're out! The last three people are going to be our winners today because we're going to hear a story about three special people. Great job! You resisted the gold statue! Today's Bible story is about a golden statue that someone made. There were three men who did not want anything to do with this statue.

STORY: The Bravest Thing I've Ever Done

INSTRUCTIONS: Share a story of a time when you were extra brave and then ask the kids for examples of times they had to be super brave. Today's Bible story is about three men who became extraordinary and brave when faced with huge danger.

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 3

INSTRUCTIONS: This Bible story from Daniel 3 can be told today rather than read directly from the Bible.

This is a story about a not-so-nice King and three men who really loved God. These men had really interesting names. The King's name was Nebuchadnezzar and the three God-loving men were named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They lived in a place called Babylon and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego all worked for the king.

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar decided to build a huge statue made of gold that stood 90 feet high. That is so high, imagine 15 men all standing one on top of the other to make a tall tower or five giraffes standing on each other's heads. That was one tall statue!

King Nebuchadnezzar then made an announcement. He said that whenever the people heard music playing, they had to bow down to this statue. If someone didn't bow to the statue, they would immediately be thrown into a fiery furnace, which was like a really giant oven that got super-hot! They used furnaces to bake bricks and things like that. Would you want to go in there? Me neither! Yikes!

So, whenever music played, everyone stopped what they were doing and they bowed down to worship this statue. Everyone except for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. When King Nebuchadnezzar heard these workers were not doing what he said, he was angry. He ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought to him to explain their actions.

The men were brought before the king and he asked them if what he heard was true: that they would not bow down and worship the statue. King Nebuchadnezzar even gave them another chance. He asked them if the music

played again, if they would bow down, and he warned them what would happen if they didn't — he would have them thrown into the fiery furnace as punishment.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said they did not bow and would never bow down and worship something that was not the one, true God. The King did not like this one bit. He ordered the men be sent to the furnace. And that's just what happened. All three of them were thrown into the big, fiery furnace.

But when King Nebuchadnezzar looked in the furnace, guess what he saw? He saw four men walking around in the fire. Wait, what? Four? So, then King Nebuchadnezzar walked as close as he could to the furnace without getting burned and shouted into the doorway, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, follower of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So, the three men walked out of the furnace without any burns. At that moment, Nebuchadnezzar knew they worshipped the one, true God. God had sent an angel to protect them from burning up — that's who the fourth person was in the furnace. The three men truly trusted and believed in God and were willing to serve and worship God only, no matter the outcome of their choices.

OBJECT LESSON: **The Dark**

Are you afraid of the dark? Lots of us are. Maybe you prefer to sleep with a night-light? I know I do. Maybe you are okay to sleep in the dark in your own room, but what about if you are sleeping someplace new? Sometimes, we may need courage when we least expect it.

Have you ever been camping? That is when I am most afraid of the dark. New places and new sounds can be scary. But two things give me courage when camping: praying to ask God to help me be courageous and my flashlight. So, we're going to do a little experiment. We're going to turn the lights off in here just for a few seconds, okay?

INSTRUCTIONS: Turn the lights off in the room (if your room has large windows, try to draw the blinds or otherwise make it darker for this experiment). After a few seconds, turn on a flashlight to alleviate the darkness.

Those flashlights really helped, didn't they? Well, guess what? Asking God for courage is like turning on a flashlight in a dark room. At first, it might not seem like it helped. You might still be scared or nervous. But praying to God gives you the ability to calm down and see what you need in order to keep moving.

ACTIVITY: **Stand Together**

INSTRUCTIONS: Divide the kids into small groups or one depending on the size. Tell the small groups to sit on the ground in a circle with their backs facing each

other and then tell them to link arms. Their goal is to get to their feet without using their hands to push off the ground. Whichever group stands first wins!

Okay, now everyone's in position with arms linked, right? You'll need to work together to stand up together as a team, and the first team to stand wins! Are you ready? Set? Go!

The reason this story is so great is God gave extraordinary courage to not just one person, but all three people. It would've been so easy for one of them to give up and decide to bow to the statue. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had each other to rely on as well as God. This small group is like that, too. We rely on God to give us courage, but we also have each other, too.