

The Fiery Furnace

Main Point: What is Worship? Celebrating Our Lord!

Biggie Verse: "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel to rescue His servants." Daniel 3:28.

Based On: Daniel 3.

You might want to combine this lesson with a fun party!

Purpose: *Celebrating* is big part of honoring and worshiping our Lord. Let's impress that upon our students, and give them a couple dozen great reasons to celebrate Him.

Print: You can print these pages in black and white as only this and the Bible story page have color. Print to letter-size paper, single-sided. You need just one copy of the Paper Toss pages. Make as many copies of the 7 Dot Bingo, Fiery Furnace and/or coloring pages as needed for each student to have one copy.

Prep: You need a stalk of celery to represent a tree and scissors to cut it into two parts as the kids watch. Tape together 16 large paper or plastic cups as shown on the Paper Toss instruction page. Cut up one copy of 7 Dot Bingo to make cards for the teacher to draw randomly.

Presentation—Short Version: Read or paraphrase Isaiah 44:13-20, which mentions the foolishness of cutting a tree into two pieces, one to burn for warmth and baking, the other to carve into an idol to worship. Now do the Object Lesson, followed by your choice of Activity Pages.

Presentation—Long Version: Read Psalm 115:3-8 first, a passage that makes it abundantly clear that idols are worthless. Next, read or summarize the story of King Nebuchadnezzar testing his officials' loyalty by demanding they worship his statue. But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chose to honor the Lord, no matter the price to pay.

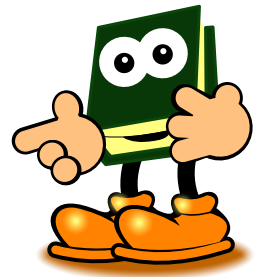
Paraphrase Isaiah 44:13-20, which mentions the foolishness of cutting a tree into two pieces, one to burn for warmth and baking, the other to fall down before to worship. Now do the Object Lesson, followed by your choice of Activity Pages.

Object Lesson: As you cut the celery in two, explain to your audience that one piece represents wood used for warmth and cooking, a smart thing to do—and the other is carved into a false god before which to fall down and worship. Have your listeners suggest reasons why worshiping a log is silly—as silly as worshiping a chunk of celery!

Activity Pages: Choose any or all of the Activity Pages to talk about celebrating our Lord and many of the reasons to do so.

Object Lesson Demonstration Video: <https://youtu.be/IfhPj6fHEag>

Teacher's Bible Story



The Bible Story is paraphrased for clarity and abridged for brevity.

The Fiery Furnace • Based on Daniel 3.

One day, Nebuchadnezzar had his people build a statue of gold. The statue stood on a base; the whole thing was very tall—ninety feet. Dozens of the king's officials were ordered to come to a ceremony to celebrate the statue. But Nebuchadnezzar wanted the officials to do more than celebrate the statue; he wanted them to *worship* it!

An announcer shouted for all to hear, "This is the king's command: When the band starts playing, you must immediately fall face down and worship the statue. If you do not, you will be thrown into this blazing furnace."

The music played and everyone fell down and worshiped the statue. Daniel's three best friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were there, but they refused to bow before the statue.

Livid with rage, Nebuchadnezzar shouted, "Is it true that you do not serve my gods or worship the statue of gold I have set up? Do it now! When you hear the music, fall down and worship!"

They replied, "O king, our God is able to save us from the fire. Even if He does not, we will not serve your gods or worship that statue."

Nebuchadnezzar was furious. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than before. It became so hot that the flames killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and the three men fell into the flames.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet and cried out in amazement, "Look! I see *four* men walking in the fire, untied and unharmed. The fourth looks like a son of the gods!"

The three men came out, and the all the officials saw that the fire had not harmed them at all.

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "I praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants! No other god can save in this way!"

Imagine this king: Powerful and wealthy ruler of the mighty Babylon Empire. No one talked back to him! No one dared to disobey him. If they did, well...we don't want to talk about the terrible things that would happen to them.

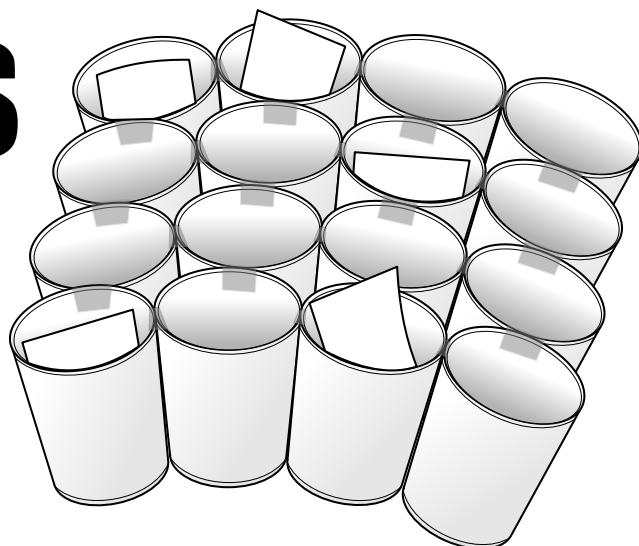
Everyone was flat on the ground except these three brave men standing straight and tall for all to see.

This fourth person was an angel or very likely Jesus Himself!

They were untied and verified unfried!

They worshiped the true God!

Paper Toss



Teacher: To get the kids out of their chairs, play this one. Tape together sixteen cups as shown, each containing one of the sixteen reasons that tell why Jesus is worthy of our worship. Have kids stand back a reasonable distance to throw crumpled paper balls into the cups for points.

Print: Letter-size paper, black and white, single-sided. One copy per classroom.

Prep: Tape sixteen large paper or plastic cups together. You only need to tape along the tops as shown. The cups will form a natural arch. Cut the cards apart. Place one card in each cup.

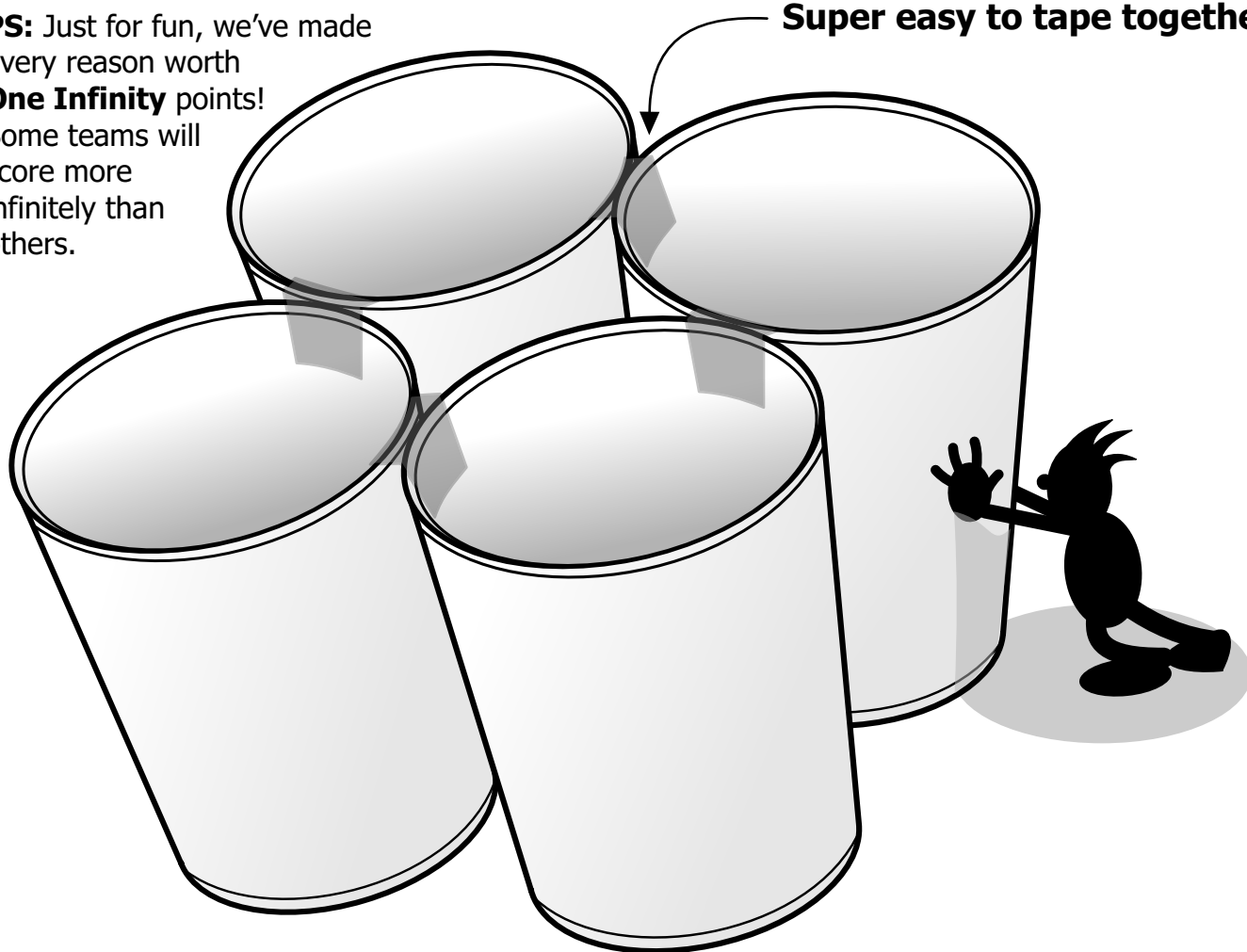
Play: Have the kids (individually or in teams) toss crumpled paper balls into the cups for points, a fun way to remind your class of the reasons why Jesus deserves our worship. The game ends when you think it's gone long enough.

PS: Just for fun, we've made every reason worth

One Infinity points!

Some teams will score more infinitely than others.

Super easy to tape together.



Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

**Jesus
is
God!**

**One Infinity
points**

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

**Jesus
created
everything!**

**One Infinity
points**

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

**Jesus
is from
heaven!**

**One Infinity
points**

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

**Jesus
hears our
prayers!**

**One Infinity
points**

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

**Jesus
is our
Savior!**

**One Infinity
points**

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

**Jesus
is making a
place for us in
heaven!**

**One Infinity
points**

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

**Jesus
will
come back!**

**One Infinity
points**

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

**Jesus
will give us
rewards!**

**One Infinity
points**

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

Jesus
forgives and
accepts us!

One Infinity
points

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

Jesus
is in
charge!

One Infinity
points

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

Jesus
died
for us!

One Infinity
points

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

Jesus
knows us
by name!

One Infinity
points

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

**Jesus
is
real!**

**One Infinity
points**

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

**Jesus
will
destroy
Satan!**

**One Infinity
points**

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

**Jesus
is our
friend!**

**One Infinity
points**

Jesus is worthy
of celebration
because

**Jesus
won't
fail!**

**One Infinity
points**

7^{DOT} Bingo!

24 Reasons to Worship and Celebrate Jesus!

Choose seven random spaces on your card, marking a dot in each one. The spaces do not need to be in a row, they can be any seven of the 24 spaces. The teacher has cards to draw randomly. The cards match these spaces. The first player to cross off all seven dots wins the game.

Jesus is from heaven!	Jesus died for us!	Jesus knows us by name!	Jesus is Judge!	Jesus is coming back!
Jesus will destroy Satan!	Jesus is Perfect!	Jesus is the Truth!	Jesus is our Maker!	Jesus is Lord!
Jesus is Master!	Jesus is the Rock!		Jesus is King!	Jesus is Eternal!
Jesus is making a place for us in heaven!	Jesus is our Friend!	Jesus is God!	Jesus forgives our sin!	Jesus is Love!
Jesus made the universe!	Jesus is our Savior!	Jesus is Holy!	Jesus hears our prayers!	Jesus is in charge!

King Nebuchadnezzar praised God.

