

Prepare

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

Written in the bible is a rich History of ordinary men and women whom God used in extra-ordinary ways. This program explores some of those people of faith and the lessons we can learn from them. We are believing your pre-schoolers will learn that God can use them in extraordinary ways as they keep loving and believing in Him.

Our repeated phrase is: "As we follow Jesus, we can be extraordinary!"

Memory Verse: "For I can do everything through [Jesus] Christ, who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

RESOURCES

- Game: A4 paper
- Illustration: A4 superhero print out sheet for the illustration, found overleaf.
- Connect Groups: Simple biscuits, water and The Beginners Bible by Zonderkidz.
- Craft: The Week 5 template, colouring pens and pencils, scissors, glue / tape / stapler, brown paper bags, and orange/red/yellow cellophane.

THIS WEEKS KEY POINT: GOD'S ANGELS PROTECT ME

Mat Time

1. WELCOME & GAME: AEROPLANE RACE!

In this game kids must try to throw their handmade paper airplane as far as they can. Have all the kids (with the help of the leaders) make a paper airplane and write their names on it. Have them stand in a line and one at a time, they must throw their airplane as far as they can. The child to throw their plane the furthest wins! Split kids into groups to play multiple rounds.

2. WORSHIP AND OUR BIG THREE RULES

- **Have praise and worship time with the kids**, if they haven't already with the adults at the start of church.
- **Go through our three big rules:** We are kind, we listen, we obey. Give examples & explain any reward system.

3. THIS WEEKS TOPIC & MEMORY VERSE

- **Share today's topic:** We are learning that as we follow Jesus, we can be extraordinary! **Today we're learning that God's angels protect me.**
- **Go through the memory verse with the kids:** Have the kids repeat it loudly, quietly, with fun actions - be creative!

4. VIDEO AND VIDEO FOLLOW-UP

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego loved God but the King wanted them to bow down and worship a false God, a golden statue. Because they said no, they were thrown into a fiery furnace - but they did not get hurt, because God sent an angel to protect them.

- Who can we ask to protect us and keep us safe?
- How strong and mighty do you think God's angels are to be our protectors?
- What can we remember when we are afraid?

5. ILLUSTRATION IDEA

Hold up a piece of paper with different superheroes on it. Ask the kids if they know who the superheroes are and what power they have to help protect them. e.g Spiderman can shoot webs to help protect people from danger and stop the bad guys! Does anyone know who God has given us to protect us and keep us safe? The Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit lives inside of us and when we are hurt or in trouble, we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us. God protected the three men in the fiery furnace with an angel and God can protect you and I too! We just need to ask Him, He's always with us!"

Small Groups

6. CONNECT GROUP STORY TIME

Give the kids a simple biscuit as you read 'Fiery Furnace' in The Beginners Bible by Zonderkidz pg. 247-250. Then ask:

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar build that everyone had to bow down to and worship?
2. Did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego obey the King and bow down?
3. What did the King do to punish them?
4. How many men are Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? How many men did the King see in the fiery furnace?
5. Were they hurt from the fiery furnace? Who protected them?

Pray together that God would remind us that He always protects us in hard times!

7. CRAFT

Today we will be making the fiery furnace to remind us that God's angels protect us.

- Give each child a brown paper bag, colouring pens/pencils and the cutout from the Week 5 template. Have them colour in the angel, the three men and the fire. Next, cut a rectangle shape out of the centre of the brown paper bag, on just one side. This creates a frame for our picture - the figures and fire must be able to fit inside!
- Help the kids glue the figures into the rectangular frame you have made, then have them glue the fire onto the picture so that the men look like they are standing in the fire. Then cover everyone with cellophane.