

Session 2—Redwood

Standing Tall

in

Worship

Scripture Text: Daniel 3

Bible Verse: “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful, But his delight is in the law of the LORD and in his law doth he meditate day and night, And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” (Psalm 1:1-3).

Aim: To lead children in worshipping the one true God.

POWER Line: I will worship only God.

Supplies

- 4" x 6" index cards
- Colored pencils or markers
- Brown pipe cleaners
- Colored paper
- Wooden craft sticks
- Craft glue

- Large shoe or boot box
- Red construction paper
- Red, orange, and yellow crepe paper
- Trophy with golden figure
- Instrumental music recording, preferably a fanfare piece
- CD player

Preparation:

Create the fiery furnace as directed and practice slipping the pipe cleaner figure into the back of the box.

Schedule

I. *POWER* of Worship

A. Welcome/Worship

- Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-5; John 4:24
- Song: "I Shall Not Be Moved"
- Song: "To You Alone"

B. Skit: Andy the Arborist—Redwood Tree

II. *POWER* of the Word

A. Bible Memorization

B. Illustrated Sermon

- Tried by Fire

C. Invitation and Prayer

POWER of Worship

Welcome/Worship

It's great to see all of you trees . . . I mean . . . young people here in Children's Prayer Revival! Let's open our session with some Scripture and song.

Ask for a volunteer to read Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and John 4:24.

How many gods are there? One! And what is His name? Jesus! How are we to worship Him? In Spirit and in truth! So, let's do that right now. Get your branches ready to wave for Jesus.

Lead the students in a chorus of "I'll Shall Not Be Moved" and other worship choruses. Encourage children to raise their hands in praise and be free in their worship.

A good worship song for this session is "To You Alone."

To You alone we lift our praise,

To You, oh, Lord most high.

To You we lift our hands in honor,

It's You, Lord, we magnify.

Skit

Andy the Arborist enters with a roar of the chainsaw. The teacher is only slightly startled this session. The tree for today is the redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*).

Redwoods are the tallest trees in the world and are found mainly in coastal California.

The bark contains a substance called tannin that helps the tree resist fire and insects.

Teacher: **Andy! It's good to see you again! How are you today?**

Andy: **I'm doing t-r-e-e- mendously well! Thanks!**

Teacher: **Were you able to help the sick trees you went to check on?**

Andy: **Absolutely. The owner thought it might be a fungus problem, but he was barking up the wrong tree, if you know what I mean.**

Teacher: *(laughing)* I think I do.

Andy: **Yeah, well, I told my friend to just “leaf” it to me and I would find out what the problem was.**

Teacher: **I'm glad you were able to help. So, what is our tree for today?**

Andy: **Well, I thought we might “branch out” to the western part of America for today's tree.**

Teacher: *(shaking her head)* You certainly have a way with words.

Andy: **Last week we talked about cedars standing tall through cold weather, but you haven't seen tall until you see a *Sequoia sempervirens*.**

Teacher: **A what? Please, use a name we can understand.**

Andy: **Have you ever heard of the redwood forest?**

Teacher: *(shakes head in agreement)* Oh, in California?

Andy: **Right, now you're barking up the right tree. Oh, sorry . . . anyway, it's on the coast of California. The redwood is the tallest tree in the world. It simply towers over everything.**

Teacher: **How tall do they grow?**

Andy: **They can grow over 360 feet tall.**

Teacher: **They stand so tall and majestic. Even one of the roads through the forest is named The Avenue of the Giants.**

Andy: **But that isn't anything compared to how long they live.**

Teacher: **How long is that?**

Andy: **Well, one of the oldest living redwoods is over 2,200 years old.**

Teacher: **Wow! That is amazing, especially since there are so many wildfires in California! How do they survive?**

Andy: **That is one of the cool facts about redwoods. Their thick tannin bark is made to resist fire and insect damage. That's how they live so long.**

Teacher: **That reminds me, our lesson today is about standing straight and tall through a trial of fire.**

Andy: *(fires up chainsaw as he exits)* **Well, I'll be leaf-ing then so these young people can hear it. This chainsaw might drown you out!**

***POWER* of the Word**

Bible Memorization

Review last session's memory verse using the motions previously learned. Post the second verse of Psalm 1 on the white board in front of students.

Distribute 4" x 6" index cards to students and ask them to create flashcards or a rebus to help them remember the verse. Some suggestions include happy face for delight, stone tablets or Holy Bible for law of the Lord, face with thought cloud for meditate, sun for day, and moon for night. Let students share their drawings and practice saying the verses together using as many different sets as possible.

Illustrated Sermon

Tried by Fire

Provide pipe cleaners for students to create simple stick figures to be used in the lesson. Form a round head at the end of one pipe cleaner. Attach the head/body piece to another pipe cleaner. Shape legs and feet. Cut a smaller piece of pipe cleaner and attach arms to the body.

Give three students wooden craft sticks and ask them to create a figure from them.

Tell students to hold on to the figures and wait for your instructions on making them come alive.

You will also want to make a pipe cleaner figure of King Nebuchadnezzar and one to represent the image that appeared in the furnace.

Create a fiery furnace from a large boot or shoe box. Cover the inside of the box with red construction paper and draw flames in a contrasting color. Cut a large rectangle from the middle of the lid, leaving a 1- to 2-inch frame. From the inside, tape red, yellow, and orange streamers to represent fire. Cut a small hole in the back of the box to slip in a pipe cleaner figure to represent the Son of God in the midst of the furnace at the appropriate time. If you have a trophy with a gold figure on it, use this for the golden image.

Have you ever been in a crowd somewhere and felt like people were looking at you? Maybe you went to a park or the beach in the summer and everyone else was wearing swimming suits and tank tops and you were in modest clothing like a skirt or jeans. How did that make you feel? Were you proud to be an example for Jesus, or did you feel silly or ashamed? Have you ever

wanted to look and act like everyone else so no one would know you were a Christian?

Today we are going to learn about some young people who were not afraid to stand out in the crowd. These young men were not afraid to stand up for Jesus and we will see just how serious they were about that commitment.

Remember Daniel and his three friends? King Nebuchadnezzar found them to be good students and full of wisdom, so he promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be governors over the provinces of Babylon, but Daniel sat at the king's gate. That's not bad for someone who was a slave, is it? I'm sure they enjoyed their new positions. Daniel and his friends probably had servants of their own.

King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was expanding and becoming wealthier as the days went by. He was so proud of his accomplishments that he had a golden statue created to look just like him. Place the trophy on the table. That's kind of conceited, don't you think? Well, King Nebuchadnezzar went one step further and decreed that on a specific day all the rulers, governors, and leaders in each province of Babylon must come together for a special meeting. So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego gathered with the rest of the crowd.

There were people everywhere! It was almost like an outdoor concert. All kinds of musicians were commanded to be there to perform. When everyone was in place, the king declared that the musicians would play a special tune. Well, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were okay with that. They liked good music. But, wait . . . the king was giving further instructions. Everyone must what? Bow

down to the golden image? Oh, no! They could not do that! Now what was the king was saying about a fiery furnace? If someone didn't bow down, he would be thrown into the furnace! What were they going to do?

The king motioned with his arms for the crowd to get ready. Students place the pipe cleaner figures on the table to represent the crowd. Stand the king at the front of them and place the golden figure beside him. **Now is everyone ready? When the music begins, everyone must bow.** Start the music or hum a tune. Students should bend the pipe cleaner figures. The ones who have the wooden craft stick figures will not bow. When all the figures are in place, stop the music.

What? Why aren't you three bowing your figures? Students should respond that their sticks can't bend. **You can't do what everyone else is doing because your stick figure doesn't work like theirs. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego weren't bowing for another reason. Do you know why?** Give time for students to discuss. **They knew Deuteronomy 6:4 by heart. Jehovah God was the only One they worshiped. They told King Nebuchadnezzar that they would never bow to the image no matter how many times he played the music.**

Well, you three MUST bow or you will be thrown into the fiery furnace and wood burns pretty fast! OK, everyone stand up again. We'll give these three one more chance to do what everyone else is doing. Ready? Start the music and students bend figures again, except the three with wooden stick figures. **Again, the three stood straight and tall, just like those giant redwoods.**

OK! That's it! Everybody up! You three come up here to the front. Since you refuse to bow to the image, you are going in the furnace. Two of you others

throw them in there right now! Ask two students to use their pipe cleaner figures to throw the wooden ones into the furnace.

Well, the three Hebrews were bound up with cords and thrown into the furnace that had been heated up seven times hotter than usual. It was so hot that the guards who threw them in dropped dead from the heat! Pipe cleaner figures should drop on the table.

Slip the Son of God figure into the back of the furnace.

King Nebuchadnezzar was so mad! Those three young men had been so smart he had given them special jobs to do. But today they weren't acting very smart by not doing what everyone else was doing. He looked in the furnace to make sure the men were a pile of ashes and what do you think he saw? Let students respond. **That's right! He saw someone else walking around in the fire with the three Hebrews. He couldn't believe his eyes! It looked like the Son of God in there with them.**

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego! You guys get out of there right now! **Calmly the three walked out of the furnace and over to the king.** Let students retrieve the three figures and move in front of King Nebuchadnezzar. **They stood tall and proud before the king. No smoke smell was in their clothes, no scorched eyebrows or singed hair! Wow! They really were like redwoods! The fire had not been able to harm them because they were protected by the one true God whom they worshiped.**

King Nebuchadnezzar was so amazed at the power of Jehovah God that he promptly made a declaration. Every person, nation, or language who would speak

anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would be destroyed. Then he gave the three Hebrews a promotion in the province of Babylon. Don't you imagine they waved their branches . . . uh . . . I mean arms in the air and worshiped God? He is the only One worthy of our praise.

Invitation and Prayer

Sometimes the world we live in wants us to worship the heroes they have set up. Maybe it is a movie star, an athlete, or rock musician. Did you know some people even worship money? That's right; there are lots of things you could put ahead of God. But the Bible tells us that Jesus is the only One we should worship.

Bow your heads and close your eyes. Are you afraid to let the world know Jesus is the only God you worship? Do you try to fit in with the crowd and bow to their music, or do you stand tall and wave your arms in praise only to Jesus? Let's pray right now and ask God to forgive us for those things we have placed ahead of Him. Then ask the Lord to place a shield around our hearts to protect us from the fiery darts the devil throws against us when classmates or neighbors try to convince us to worship unholy things. Lead students in a prayer of consecration. Now, let's all throw our hands into the air and wave our redwood branches in worship to only true God, Jesus Christ!