



Lesson #4-13

God in the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1, 8-30



Key Verse:

“We will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

Daniel 3:18

The Point:

God will be with us even in the worst of times.

Advent Theme (December 3—December 24):

God's Presence Brings Life

I-DOLL-atry

Discuss the First Commandment and idolatry.

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Luther's Small Catechism or a catechism from your own faith tradition
- † Doll or stuffed animal

I-DOLL-atry (Continued)

Discuss the First Commandment and idolatry.

Instructions:

1. **I brought my very favorite doll with me today. I love her SOOO much. I talk to her and play with her. She is soooo sweet.** Continue to talk about and to your doll, ignoring the students until you can tell they are getting restless. Then continue a bit longer: **I cannot think of anyone or anything I love as much as this doll.**
2. **Do you all love my doll?** The students are likely to have significantly less enthusiasm for the doll than you do. Act surprised by this. **What do you mean you do not think she is great? She is the most important thing in my life.**
3. When you can tell that they are beginning to understand that you are over-acting, say: **Of course, I do not really love my doll quite that much. But I can think of some things that I do depend on and even love quite a bit – my cell phone, my car,** (name whatever else can become an idol for you personally). **Do any of you have things that you love or depend on a lot?**
4. Ask a small group of students to turn to Exodus 20:2-3.
5. Ask another small group of students to turn to the Ten Commandments section of the Small (or other) Catechism.
6. Ask for a volunteer to read the Exodus passage aloud. Then ask a volunteer to read the First Commandment and its explanation in the Small Catechism.
7. **God commanded God’s people to have no other gods. That means we worship only one God. But it also means, like the Small Catechism says, that we trust and love God above EVERYTHING else. Sometimes we call the things that get in the way of doing this “idols.”**
8. **God has said, “I am your God. You do not need, nor should you have, anyone or anything that you depend on and love as much as me.” When we do, that is called idolatry – get it? I-DOLL-atry** (hold up the doll as you say the middle syllable so they get the play on words). **It is not really about dolls, but that is a good way to help you remember the word. God has commanded us to trust God alone because there is nothing and no one as dependable and worthy of our love and trust as God.**
9. **Today’s story involves a king, some idolatry, and some men who were amazing at obeying that First Commandment.**