

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 2 • Unit 4 • Week 2

GOD PROTECTS

OBJECTIVE:

To show that God is our only true protector. We should not look to any kind of idol for protection, no matter what.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Do: Put out some stuffed animals, or pictures of stuffed animals for the children to see.

Ask: Do these toys look like other creatures you know about?

Answer: Yes.

Say: These are images of something God created.

Ask: Do you have a stuffed animal that is special to you? What is it?

Ask: Are these stuffed animals alive?

Answer: No.

Ask: Could these stuffed animals help you if you were in trouble?

Answer: No.

Say: Some people look to dead things like stuffed animals to help them. These things are called "idols." Sometimes it is a statue, or even a tree.

Ask: Can you think of anything people hang up, or carry, as "good luck" charms to protect them?

Answer: Things like dice, statues of dead "saints," rabbit's feet, stones, beads, crosses, medals, etc.

Say: These are all idols, and should not be looked to for good luck or blessings. Only God can give us the blessing of protection.

BIBLE LESSON:

In a recent lesson we learned that we should keep God's Commandments, and then we will be blessed. One blessing God gives us is His protection from those who want to do us harm and want to do wrong things to us.

Today we will learn about three young men who kept God's Commandments and how God protected them. Their names were Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. They obeyed God. They knew that they should only look to God for protection and not anything else.

The king of the country where they lived said, "You must bow down and worship this big statue of gold that I have made." It was an image, or likeness, of something. We are not told in the Bible just what it was. Then the king said, "If you do not bow down and worship this image, I will kill you. I will cast you into a fiery furnace, to be burned to death."

No one wants to be killed. Would these three young men be afraid of being killed? Would they make some excuse to bow down to the idol? This was a hard choice to make.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego knew that God said, "You shall not make for yourself any carved image—or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them." Every day they prayed to God to help them. So when they needed it, they received courage to do what God said.

The three friends would not bow down to that image. The king, who thought he could make an image into a god, said, "If you do not worship this statue, you shall be cast immediately into the middle of a big, burning, fiery furnace. And who is the god who will protect you from my hands?" The three answered, "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to protect us from your hand, O king. Whatever happens, we will not worship the gold image!"

The king was furious. He told his servants to heat the big furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. Then strong men tied up the three, and threw them into the furnace. The men had to get close to the fire to throw them in. The furnace was so hot that the heat burned the strong men to death.

Later, the king looked into the furnace door, and was astonished. What do you think he saw?

The king stood by the opened door of the furnace and looked in, and said, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." The king did not know that the fourth person was a spirit being sent by the one true God. It was in the form of a special kind of man that was protecting them.

The king called to Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego to come out. They came out, and they were not harmed at all, not even their clothes! They didn't even smell like smoke!

All the leaders in the kingdom were there with the king. They were all amazed. The king then said to

them, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have changed the king’s word; and saved their bodies, because they would not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

“Therefore I make a law that any people, nation or language which speaks anything bad against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be burned to the ground; because there is no other God who can protect like this.”

The three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego were good examples to all. Because the three friends obeyed God, a whole kingdom learned about the one true God.

We must be a good example by obeying God also.

Ask: When we are in trouble and someone wants to harm us, what should we do first?

Answer: Ask God for His protection. Call out in your mind, “God help me!” That is a short prayer, and He will answer you.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Make a shadowbox with four figures to represent Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego and the Angel God sent to be with them.

Supplies: Shoe box or folded paper box (one per student)
Crayons or markers
Red, yellow and orange construction paper
Paper with simple outlines of four men (on white or tan paper)
Scissors
Glue

Prepare Before Class:

Draw simple outlines of four men.

Photocopy men onto white or tan paper.

Cut red, yellow and orange construction paper into three- or four-inch squares.

Students should:

1. Cut out flames of the red, yellow and orange paper.
2. Glue flames to the back and bottom of the box. (Students can fold a tab at the bottom of the flames and then glue the tab to the box bottom. The flame will then stand up.)
3. Color the four figures.
4. Cut out the four figures.
5. Fold a tab at the feet of each figure and glue the tab to the box bottom.

MUSIC:

Have the children sing the song that the children's choir performed at the Feast in 1995, entitled "The Perfect Ten."

"The Perfect Ten"

Number one we've just begun, God should be first in your life.
Number two's the idol rule; those graven images aren't nice.
Number three God's name should be never spoken in jest.
Number four the Sabbath's for our worship and for rest.
Number five we all should strive to honor father and mother.
Number six don't get your kicks from killing one another.
Number seven life is heaven when you're true to your mate.
Number eight don't steal and break this rule for anyone's sake.
Number nine don't be the kind who goes around telling lies.
Number ten don't covet when you see your neighbor's house or wife.
That's the list and God insists we stay away from these sins.
That is why we memorize commandments one through ten.

The perfect ten, the perfect ten. They're just as true as they were way back when.
God gave the perfect ten, the perfect ten. God gave the perfect ten.

Or, have them sing the following words to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

Look, look, look to God.
Only He can help.
Safely, safely, safely, safely.
Happy we can be.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 John 5:21 "Little children, keep yourselves from idols."

family activity

THE POINT:

Today we focused on the Second Commandment. We should not look to any kind of idol or image for protection, no matter what. Only God can truly protect us.

ASK ME...

What did Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego do when they were told to worship a big idol?

What happened to them?

What happened then?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Watch for and notice charms that people carry, wear or put in their cars for protection, such as statues, dice, rabbit's feet, stones, crosses, medals, etc. Watch for them being used and being sold in stores.

Point out that these could become idols, and that it is impossible for these things to do anything, much less protect people. Discuss other things that people "idolize."

MEMORY VERSE:

1 John 5:21 "Little children, keep yourselves from idols."