



Bible Story

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand True

Daniel 3

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Truth!

Materials

sidewalk chalk (orange, red and other colors)

Complete Music CD

device for playing music

Teacher Tip

Create an indoor lava moat. Use blue construction paper for the islands and orange construction paper for the lava. Use masking tape to attach paper to the floor of a gym or classroom.

Preschool Adaptation

Have precoolers walk from island to island instead of jumping.

High Intensity Lava Moat

Object

Knights will reinforce the Bible story as they jump to keep from falling into the “lava.”

Preparation

Designate a place outside on a concrete surface (*playground, sidewalk, or parking lot that has been blocked from traffic*). Follow these steps to create the lava moat:

1. Use sidewalk chalk (*not orange or red*) to create a starting line and a finish line.
2. Use red sidewalk chalk to draw “islands” of various sizes in between the two lines. Make sure the islands are spaced so that Knights can jump from island to island.
3. Fill in the spaces between the islands with red and orange markings to represent lava.

Let’s Play!

SAY: In today’s Bible story, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in a dangerous and life-threatening situation. They were in a fiery furnace, and it seemed like there was no way to escape! Let’s pretend that the Knights of North Castle are facing their own danger: a fiery moat!

Explain that the orange and red markings represent lava while the other areas represent islands.

SAY: In this game, we need to jump from island to island while the music is playing. The goal is to keep away from the lava and listen for the words, “Armor Up with Truth!”

1. Invite Knights to line up at the start of the lava moat.
2. Have Knights move around the area as the music is played. When the music stops and the leader shouts “Armor Up with Truth!” Knights should sit down on an island and not in the lava.
3. Continue playing. Vary the game by encouraging Knights to move in the area in different ways. Some examples are to hop, gallop, take large steps or small steps, and so forth.

Bible Tie-in

ASK: In our game how did it feel to escape the hot lava? What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? They escaped the furnace, but how?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were saved from the furnace, but in a surprising way. Although they should have been burned, they came out of the furnace unharmed. They did not even smell like smoke from a fire. God saved them!

Say a closing prayer, then repeat our Castle Callout together!

Medium Intensity

Belt of Truth

Object

Knights will think about the Banner Verse and learn how belts were important pieces of armor.

Preparation

Set up a relay race for two or more teams with a starting line and a finish line. Place chairs or cones at the start and midpoint sections of the relay. Place simple age-appropriate tunics or cloaks and lengths of rope (belts) at the starting lines for each team.

Let's Play!

Choose a Knight or leader to illustrate the game. In this game Knights will put on the simple age-appropriate tunics or cloaks or cloaks and run to a chair or cone.

SAY: The Knights of North Castle don't wear suits of armor all the time! Instead, they wear a long shirt called a "tunic." It's kind of like the T-shirt that _____ (Knight's name) is wearing right now. In this game, we're going to put on a tunic like this to complete our quest. (Have Knights either hop or run for the race.)

1. Divide Knights into two or more teams lined up behind the starting line.
2. Knights will put on the tunic then run the distance to the chair. Knights will then run back to the starting line, take off the tunic, and hand it to the next Knight in line.

3. Continue playing until everyone has had a turn.

ASK: How difficult was it to wear the tunic as you ran around the chair?

SAY: Even if you didn't find it too difficult, it definitely could be made easier. That's where the "belts" come in (hold up a length of rope or material).

Instruct Knights to complete the race again. This time, have Knights use a length of rope as a belt to cinch and/or tuck the extra fabric of the t-shirts making it easier to hop.

Bible Tie-in

ASK: How was it different hopping (or running) to the finish line with the belt on?

Encourage Knights to discuss their experience of the activity.

SAY: People in Bible times wore long garments called robes. Because the robes were long, doing physical activities could be difficult. When they worked, or ran, or did other activities, belts were used to make it easier. This might be what Paul was thinking about when he wrote: "So stand with the belt of truth around your waist" (Ephesians 6:14). Belts were worn to prepare for action!

Say a closing prayer, then repeat our Castle Callout together!



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Castle Callout

Armor Up with Truth!

Materials

- several lengths of rope or pieces of material for each team (*long enough to work as a belt*)
- simple age-appropriate tunics or cloaks
- chairs or cones

Teacher Tip

Have Castle Guides assist Knights in putting the tunics and belts on during the race. **Safety first!**



Bible Story

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Castle Callout

Armor Up with Truth!

Materials

- Complete Music CD
- device for playing music

Low Intensity

Take a Bow

Object

Knights will play a low-energy game as they reflect on the theme for today.

Preparation

Make sure the recreation area is safe and ready for play. Have music ready to play.

Let's Play!

Have Knights sit down in the play area.

SAY: In this game, we're going to play music for you. When you hear the music being played, dance around.

1. As Knights dance around, instruct Knights that leaders will gently tap three Knights on the shoulder. When the music stops, all Knights are to bow except the three Knights who were tapped on the shoulder.

SAY: Great job bowing. I see three Knights who did not bow. In our Bible lesson, we discover how three people named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not bow to the king's statue when they heard music playing. Can anyone tell me why they did not bow? (They were faithful to worship God and not the king.) Because Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood true to God and would not bow to the king.

SAY: Let's play again and see who doesn't bow.

2. As Knights dance around, instruct leaders to gently tap three other Knights on the shoulder. When the music stops, all Knights are to bow except the three Knights who were tapped on the shoulder.

3. Play again until all Knights have had an opportunity to act out the role of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Bible Tie-in

SAY: In today's Bible story, we discover three people who stood true to God.

ASK: Why did people in Babylon bow down and worship the king's statue when they heard music playing? (They were forced to worship the king's statue.)

Encourage Knights to discuss the question. Help them think about why it would be wrong for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be forced to worship the statue or idol.

ASK: What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they did not bow to the king's statue? (They were put in the hot furnace.)

SAY: After Nebuchadnezzar saw how God rescued Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, he commended how they stood true to their God, even though it meant risking their own lives.

Say a closing prayer, then repeat our Castle Callout together!

Preschool Recreation

Icy Boulder Dash

Preparation

Make sure the recreation area is ready for play. Create a starting and a finish line.

Let's Play!

1. This activity is a relay race. Divide the children into two equal groups. Children will begin at the starting line.
2. The aim of this activity is for the children to move the ball with the pool noodle. Call the ball an "icy boulder."
3. Once children reach the finish line they run back to the starting line and pass the pool noodle off to the next child in line.
4. Leaders will have another ball ready for the next child in line. Make sure each child has had a turn.

Bible Tie-in

Repeat the Banner Verse. **Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power! (Ephesians 6:10)** How did we use our strength and power in this game? Our strength and power comes from God. We need to ask God to help us be strong and make great choices like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Knight, Knight, Castle

Preparation

Make sure the recreation area is ready for play. Play this game as you would play Duck, Duck, Goose.

Let's Play!

1. One child is the marshal and walks around the circle tapping each child on the head, saying, "Knight, Knight, Knight..."
2. When ready, the marshal taps a child who is sitting in the circle on the head and says, "Castle!" The child stands up and chases the marshal around the circle.
4. When the marshal gets back to the open seat in the circle, the marshal sits down with the rest of the children.
4. The child designated as the "Castle" now becomes the new marshal. Play until all the children have had a turn to be the marshal.

Bible Tie-in

SAY: We had fun playing our game today. Each time we are here at VBS we are going to discover a new Castle Callout today: "Armor Up with Faith!" Let's say that phrase together!



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Castle Callout Armor Up with Truth!

Materials

Icy Boulder Bash

-  pool noodles (cut in half)
-  small plastic balls

Teacher Tip Preschool Adaptation of "Lava Moat"

Have precoolers walk from island to island instead of jumping.