

Activity: Charcoal

Teaching Goal:

Christians need Christian friends.

Scripture:

Hebrews 10:25 "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another."

Daniel 3 - The story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Ecclesiastes 4:12 "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves, a cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Materials:

11 Charcoal briquettes (minimum) or logs in a fire pit
Lighter fluid
Matches
Marshmallows and roasting sticks (optional)

- I. **Play theme song**
- II. **Pray**
- III. **Review last lesson**
- IV. **Lesson and Discussion**

☺ Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. ACTIVITY: **Let's make a fire using charcoal and lighter fluid.** Stack 10 briquettes into a pyramid. Take the 11th briquette and set it apart from the group. Douse the 10 briquettes and single briquette in lighter fluid. (CAUTION: Always be careful when using fire. Keep children and others at a safe distance.) Light the briquettes. It will take awhile for the briquettes to catch fire so talk while you are waiting.

Ask someone to read Hebrews 10:25. "**Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.**" **I believe it is very important that every Christian have strong Christian friendships. God uses Christian friends to provide accountability—help us to do what is right. Christian friends can encourage us. Christian friends will help us follow God when others might not want us to. Like in the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.**

The King commanded that everyone bow and worship his idol. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew that bowing to anyone or anything other than God was wrong. They said, "no" and refused to bow. The King was furious and wanted to kill the three boys but God protected them. It may have been easier for them to say "no" because they supported each other.



In the book of Ecclesiastes another King, one who believed in God, says: "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves, a cord of three strands is not quickly broken." One can be overpowered but three is stronger. We need strong Christian friendships.

B. Go back to the fire and see what is happening. The single briquette will not catch fire because it is alone, separated from contact with other briquettes. The other briquettes will form a hot fire because they are in contact with each other. Eventually the black briquettes will change to a hot white color. Explain the process.

These charcoal briquettes represent us as Christians. Alone we may struggle to be "on fire" for Jesus. But together we support and encourage one another in following Jesus. Just like the lighter fluid helped start this fire, there are activities we can do together that start and encourage our faith to grow—reading the Bible, a book, praying together, service projects, singing and praising.

Do you see how the fire is changing the charcoal from black to ashy grey? As our faith grows we will also change—grow wiser, make better choices, trust God more, feel more peaceful, etc. We need Christian friends to help us change and become more like Christ.

Continue to check on the fire. Talk about times when God has used friends to teach you something new about the faith. When friends have helped you stand up against negative peer pressure. Feeling the presence of God in worship or through a message.

Option: You can finish the Family Time by roasting marshmallows over the coals.

V. Memorize

**Christian friends keep us strong,
To do what is right
And avoid what is wrong.**

VI. Close in Prayer

VII. Pass it On.

Pray and ask God to bring to your mind another family that would benefit from this activity. Make an extra copy of this lesson and pass it on. You may also know a children's minister who would like to share this lesson with other families.

FAMILY TIME TRAINING

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