



You Have A Right To Say "No"

ACTIVITY	MINUTES	GRADE LEVEL	FOCUS	PITstops	*OTHER SUPPLIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPENING ACTIVITY Hot Air	4	1-6			red and blue balloons
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON You Have A Right To Say "No"	9	1-6		 A	kazoos or small instruments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEMORY VERSE	5	1-6			
REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (Choose One Option)					
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1 Cookin' Good Skit	8	1-6		 B-D	
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2 Today's Idols	10	1-6			magazines or newspapers
<input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP PROGRAM Daniel Said No	7	1-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LET'S DO IT! (LDI)					
Special Me!	5	1-2			
Half Baked	5	3-4			
Fiery Questions	5	5-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIALOGUE FOLDER					
iSpeak	5	1-2			
iSpeak	5	3-4			
iSpeak	5	5-6			

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson will help junior soldiers strengthen their identities as Christians and stand firm for their beliefs. They'll understand that it's okay to say "no" to things they know aren't God's will.

YOU ARE HERE!



Place the timeline marker on **562 B.C.** on the **Old Testament** timeline.

*In addition to materials listed in this chart, you need Basic Classroom Supplies.

You Have A Right To Say "No"

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

BIBLE REFERENCES:

This lesson is based on the following Bible references:

Daniel 3

UNIT AIM:

This unit will help junior soldiers develop a sense of empowerment through the Holy Spirit to stand firm in their beliefs, regardless of others' opinions. They'll develop stronger identities as Christians.

FOR THE FINAL LESSON of this unit we jump back in the book of Daniel to chapter three. Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had been living in Babylon for 20 years. King Nebuchadnezzar was in the 18th year of his reign.

Daniel had interpreted the king's dream, and the king proclaimed that Daniel's God was the living God. However, his devotion to Daniel's God was short-lived. The king erected an image of gold on the plain of Dura. He summoned all his political leaders to come, bow down, and worship the idol whenever the music played. The punishment for not bowing down to the idol was to be thrown in the fiery furnace.

It's believed that Daniel was away on business during this time because he wasn't present in this story.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to the idol because it was against their faith in God. The other leaders in Babylon told King Nebuchadnezzar that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't bow down to the idol or worship the king. The king was furious and he ordered the three Hebrews to appear before him.

The king asked the young men to defend themselves. They said, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we don't need to talk about this anymore. We might be thrown into a blazing furnace. But the God we serve is able to bring us out of it alive. He will save us from your powerful hand. But we want you to know this. Even if we knew that our God wouldn't save us, we still wouldn't serve your gods. We wouldn't worship the gold statue you set up" (Daniel 3:16-18 NIV).

This angered the king more. He ordered the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. The king's soldiers tied the three Hebrews up and placed them in the fiery furnace. The dangerous heat and spits of fire that came from the furnace killed the soldiers who took Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to the furnace.

The king noticed that there were four men walking unbound in the furnace. He called for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to come from the furnace. The king and his servants were amazed that not a hair on their heads was singed. He proclaimed that no one should speak against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

There are many idols in today's world. Junior soldiers see examples each day of people who put things and situations before God. Use this lesson to help your junior soldiers understand that they have the right to say "no" to the world's idols and priorities, and say "YES" to God.



OPENING ACTIVITY

Hot Air

Using tape, make a line down the middle of the classroom. Designate one side of the line as the red side, and the other as the blue side.

As junior soldiers arrive, give them two balloons of the same color. Give two thirds of the junior soldiers red balloons, and the other third blue balloons.

Say: **When I say go, blow up your balloons. Then, get your balloons to the other side of the line. Try to keep the other teams balloons from coming over to your side. No part of your body can cross the line.**

Play the game for a few minutes.

Say: **Which team had the most “hot air”? (Allow response.) How did you feel to be on the smaller team? (Allow response.)**

Say: **Sometimes as Christians we feel we’re on a smaller team because many people in our school or neighborhood aren’t Christians. We may feel like we’re outnumbered, and that what we have to say doesn’t matter much.**


With God’s help we can be proud that we’re Christians. We can stand up for what we believe in.

LESSON

You Have A Right To Say “No”

Before class, gather kazoos or other small musical instruments for half of the junior soldiers in your brigade. Divide junior soldiers into two groups for this lesson—music makers and faithful followers. Give each “music maker” a kazoo or other small musical instrument. You’ll need a teenage or adult volunteer for this activity. Provide the volunteer with a copy of the lesson so they can “conduct” the music makers throughout the lesson. Instruct the “faithful followers” to say “We worship Jehovah alone!” when they hear the music.


Say: **After Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, what did the king do? (Allow response—refresh junior soldiers’ memories that the king announced that Daniel’s God was the living God.)**

Say: **King Nebuchadnezzar forgot his announcement that Daniel’s God was the living God. He made a statue of gold that was 90 feet high, and 9 feet wide. He called all the leaders of Babylon to come to the dedication ceremony of the gold statue. (Show junior soldiers  A. Tape it to the wall or board.)**

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- red balloons
- blue balloons
- tape

MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  A
- kazoos or small musical instruments



Say: **At the ceremony King Nebuchadnezzar’s messenger commanded, “Whenever you hear the music play you must bow down and worship the image that King Nebuchadnezzar has built. If you don’t bow down, you’ll be placed in a blazing furnace!”**

Instruct junior soldiers in the music makers group to play their instruments.
Allow the faithful followers to respond.

Say: **All the people heard the sound of the music. As soon as the people heard the music they fell down and worshiped the gold statue. All except three young men. Daniel’s three friends refused to bow down to the statue. Do you remember their names?** (*Allow response—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.*)

King Nebuchadnezzar was filled with anger. He sent for the three young men to come see him. The king said, “Is what I heard about you true? Don’t you serve my gods? Don’t you worship the gold statue I created? You’ll hear the music again. When you do, fall down and worship the statue I made. If you do, that will be good. But, if you don’t bow down, you’ll be thrown at once into the blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to save you from my powerful hand?”

Instruct junior soldiers in the music makers group to play their instruments.
Allow the faithful followers to respond.

Say: **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said, “King, we don’t need to talk about this any more. We won’t worship the statue. If you throw us into the fire, our God will save us. Even if our God doesn’t save us, we still won’t worship your gods!”**

The king was so angry. At once he ordered the furnace to be burned seven times hotter than usual. He ordered his strongest soldiers to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the furnace. The furnace was so hot that the soldiers who threw the three men into the furnace were killed.

King Nebuchadnezzar stood up. He was amazed. He asked his advisor, “Didn’t we tie up three men? Did we throw three men into the fire?”

“Yes we did,” they replied.

The king said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire. They aren’t tied up. They aren’t burned. The fourth man looks like a son of the gods!”

King Nebuchadnezzar walked up to the furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, come out!”

The people were amazed. The fire hadn’t touched the three men. Not one hair on their heads had been burned! In fact, they didn’t even smell like smoke.



After witnessing this amazing miracle, King Nebuchadnezzar said, "May the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be praised! He has sent His angel and saved His servants. No one can say anything against their God."

God protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Why did God protect them? (*Allow response.*) They weren't afraid because they loved God, and knew that God loved them. When we have God on our side we can stand up for what we believe in.

MEMORY VERSE Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

"In the same way, *let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do.* And they will praise your Father who is in heaven."


Review the verse several times.

Ask junior soldiers to separate into their groups from the lesson—music makers and faithful followers. Have each team form a line facing the other team. The first person on one team repeats half the memory verse. If a player from the opposite team can finish the verse correctly, their team gains one point. If not, the player who said the first half of the verse can complete the verse for one point. Play the game until all junior soldiers have had a chance to participate.

REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OPTION)

Cookin' Good Skit (Option 1)

To reinforce today's lesson, allow junior soldiers to perform the mime "Cookin' Good" from  B-D.



The portion of the memory verse printed in *italics* is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  B-D



**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- magazines or newspapers
- scissors
- glue
- poster board

Today's Idols (Option 2)

Say: **Worshiping idols in King Nebuchadnezzar's day was a real problem. In fact, many people today still worship idols. Do you know what an idol is? (Allow response.) An idol is something that's very important to someone. It's so important to them that they worship it. They think their idol is the most important thing on earth. People worship all kinds of things and people.**

Instruct junior soldiers to look through magazines and newspapers and cut out pictures or words that represent today's idols (e.g. money, beauty, cars, etc.) Discuss with junior soldiers how none of these things should become more important than God.



WORSHIP PROGRAM

CHORUS: Song #6: "I Will Praise You, Lord"
(Track #6, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

CHORUS: Song #69: "I Want to Be a Witness"
(Track #19, *Great Big Praise* CD 2)

DEVOTIONAL

Daniel Said No

Say: **Raise your hand if you have a little brother or sister.** (*Allow response.*)
If your brother or sister is about two or three years old, what word do you hear them say all the time? (*Allow response—No*)

Say: **"NO!" is a word babies learn quickly. They understand its meaning. If they don't want something, they'll say "NO!" They're learning to have a mind of their own and express what they want and don't want.**

Learning when to say "NO!" is important. Daniel said "NO!" several times when he lived in Babylon. When did Daniel say "NO!"? (*Allow response—He said "no" to the king's food, his friends say "no" to worshipping the golden statue, he said "no" to taking gifts from the king, and he said "no" to worshipping the king.*)

Say: **Daniel is a great example of when to use the word "NO!" He used the word "NO!" to keep his faith in God. When Daniel lived in Babylon there were many things that were against God's laws. Daniel was strong and stood up for his beliefs.**

With the help of the Holy Spirit we can say "NO!" to bad things, and "YES!" to God!

PRAYER



Remember to fill out the *What Do You Think Evaluation* on page 306.

