

A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

Holy Fire

Based on Daniel 3 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 5 and up

CAST SIZE
5 puppets

PERFORMANCE TIME
6–8 minutes

PROPS REQUIRED
A lighter, a strip of gauze

MAIN THEME
Even the most dangerous, powerful things in this world still answer to God.

To print just the play on its own, print pages 5-10.

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

CHILD 1 sneaks a lighter and gets burned, and three FLAMES appear to explain that fire, even in its destructive power, is a servant of God. The FLAMES act out their role in the story of the fiery furnace from Daniel 3, showing that God is in control even over the things that frighten or hurt us.

Spiritual Concept

Fire can be dangerous, but it still answers to God—the same is true of every powerful, scary thing in this world. The three young men in Daniel 3 trusted God even in the middle of the furnace, and the flames themselves were under God's command the whole time.

Age Suitability

Best for ages 5 and up. A real, lit flame briefly touching a child (CHILD 1's "burn") is part of the premise; performers should judge whether that reads as too scary for their youngest audience members.

Performance Time

6-8 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

CHILD 1 – A naughty child who sneaks a lighter and gets burned by it.

CHILD 2 – A follower of Jesus who tries to talk CHILD 1 out of playing with fire.

FLAME 1 – One of three flames, servants of God.

FLAME 2 – One of three flames, servants of God.

FLAME 3 – One of three flames, servants of God.

Prop Options

- A lighter (a real one that can be ignited adds excitement but isn't necessary)
 - A strip of gauze to wrap the “burned” hand
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PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

New to puppets? General prep, technique, and voice tips live at gospelpuppets.org/getting-started.

Character Notes

CHILD 1 isn't played as villainous—just curious and a little reckless. The burn and the FLAMES' teasing are the consequence, not a punishment played for cruelty.

FLAME 1 does the most talking early on and can have a mischievous, slightly intimidating edge before the FLAMES turn reverent in the presence of the Lord.

For this play, the flames can be any kind of glove painted orange, yellow, and red. Googly eyes give instant life. Wear the flame puppet backwards with its “face” on the back of your hand, because it's painful to try to keep your wrist bent (palm towards the audience) the whole time.

Staging

FLAMES 2 and 3 do a chant-and-dance bit twice (“How sweet to be a flame...”)—the repeated “Hot, hot, hot!” line works as a group chant.

When the FLAMES address “our Lord,” staging that as all three turning and bowing (as written) reads clearly even without an on-stage figure representing the Lord.

A wonderful fun way to include more people, especially pre-readers desperate to help, is to have a hand-held “curtain” ready for any scene-changes. Have someone call out “Scene change!” and the helpers can run up and screen the center stage for a moment, while chimes are rung and while the puppets switch places.

Reading the Script

CAPS = volume/intensity.

Ellipsis (...) = the author's pacing notation.

The chant lines ("Hot, hot, hot!") are a group refrain—have FLAMES 2 and 3 deliver them together each time they recur.

HOLY FIRE

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(Enter two CHILDREN.)

CHILD 1: Guess what our puppet show is about today?
CHILD 2: *(shakes head)* Fire, I think.
CHILD 1: Well, nobody is looking, so guess what I have got?
CHILD 2: What?
CHILD 1: *(holds up a lighter)* My uncle left this on the patio!
CHILD 2: Oo, those are very dangerous!
CHILD 1: I have always wanted to light it myself.
CHILD 2: And you stole it!
CHILD 1: No! I did not steal it! I just kind of ...borrowed it.
And I am being very careful!
CHILD 2: Well! I don't, um, I don't think...
CHILD 1: What, are you afraid? Nobody will know!
CHILD 2: Yes, because you know, and now I know, and GOD knows.
CHILD 1: How can God know? He is away off up in heaven or some place.
CHILD 2: God is right here with us all the time!
CHILD 1: Says you! Well, I can't see Him.
CHILD 2: And besides, it is just plain WRONG.
CHILD 1: Why would He care about a little thing like this?
CHILD 2: God cares about everything about us.
CHILD 1: Humph. Well, this is none of His business.
CHILD 2: Everything is His business!
CHILD 1: I am just "borrowing" this lighter, and I am just going to make a very small fire with it.
CHILD 2: But even FIRE is His business!
CHILD 1: Stand back, here goes!

(Enter FLAME 1, very close to CHILD 1.)

CHILD 1: Ow! Ow!
FLAME 1: Hey there!
CHILD 1: Ow! I burned myself!
FLAME 1: No, you didn't. I burned you.

CHILD 1: Ow, ow! That was no fair!
CHILD 2: Wait, a fire can TALK? How can a flame talk?
FLAME 1: Because, silly, this is a puppet show!
CHILD 1: Well, you are MEAN.
FLAME 1: Fire is a very powerful thing. God has given me the job of burning things up.
CHILD 1: But not people!
FLAME 1: Yes! That even includes foolish children like you.
CHILD 1: Well I hate you!
FLAME 1: Listen. It's not MY fault if you don't know how to handle me.
CHILD 2: So wait a minute, Fire. Isn't our puppet show ABOUT fire? Is that why you're here?
FLAME 1: Tell you what. Go get some ice for your friend to put on that burn, and I will tell a story about fire from the Bible.
CHILD 1: Ice would help. Let's do what it says. Scene change!

(Helpers can hold up a curtain while chimes are rung.)
(Exit CHILDREN.)

(Enter FLAMES 2 and 3. They do a little dance. Chant slowly.)

FLAME 1: How sweet to be a flame!
FLAMES 2 AND 3: Hot, hot, hot!
FLAME 1: We burn, we melt, we fry!
FLAMES 2 AND 3: Hot, hot, hot!
FLAME 1: Our fire none can tame
FLAMES 2 AND 3: Hot, hot, hot!
FLAME 1: Except the God most high!
FLAMES 2 AND 3: Hot, hot, hot!
FLAME 3: Hey flames! Do you see what is happening?

(ALL turn to one side.)

FLAME 1: Look at all that wood! The Babylonians are bringing it to us!
FLAME 2: Is that really all for us?

FLAME 3: Wow, awesome! That is MUCH more wood than they have ever given us before!

FLAME 1: Yes! That is at LEAST twice as much.

FLAME 2: No, it's more than that; it's three or FOUR times as much. Wow...

FLAME 3: Wait, there is even MORE wood coming!

FLAME 1: Now, that is at least SEVEN times as much as they have EVER given us before.

FLAME 2: Flame-tastic! We can burn seven times hotter than ever before!

(They dance again.)

FLAME 1: How sweet to be a flame!

FLAMES 2 AND 3: Hot, hot, hot!

FLAME 1: Our fire none can tame!

FLAME 2: Hot, hot, hot—oh! Look! Our Lord comes!

(All FLAMES turn the other way. All bow low.)

FLAME 3: Our Lord and King!

FLAME 1 AND FLAME 2: Hail! Your Majesty!

FLAME 2: Holy Fire, how can we serve You?

FLAME 3: This is such a great honor!

FLAME 2: Let us glorify You!

FLAME 3: And we have all this extra wood!

FLAME 1: Yes, our fire can be SEVEN times hotter than usual! We could have a holy barbecue—

FLAME 2: Hush, He speaks.

(ALL flames stop talking, start nodding, and act like they are listening to instructions. Take about ten seconds for this.)

ALL FLAMES: Yes, Lord. We will do Your will.

FLAME 2: This is incredible! Do you remember the first time this happened?

FLAME 3: Yes, the burning bush, and Moses!

FLAME 2: Holy Fire that does not consume!

FLAME 3: And then there was that wonderful chariot—

FLAME 1: Oo! The chariot of fire that came for Elijah—
FLAME 2: From heaven!
FLAME 3: What a ride Elijah had!
FLAME 1: And now! Now OUR flames will be remembered too!
FLAME 2: We will just light up the King
FLAME 1: While He visits with His young friends.
FLAME 3: And not a hair on their heads—
FLAME 2: Not, not, not!
FLAME 3: Not their clothes, neither—
FLAME 2: Not, not, not!
FLAME 3: They won't even smell like smoke.
FLAME 1: But we'll burn up the SOLDIERS! YES.
FLAME 3: So everyone will know
FLAME 1: That we CAN burn—
FLAME 3: If we WANT to!
FLAME 2: Hot, hot, hot!
FLAME 1: That will teach King Nebuchadnezzar a thing or two!
FLAME 3: We will be so famous!
FLAME 2: We will be talked about for all of eternity.

(They dance again.)

FLAME 1: How sweet to be a flame!
FLAMES 2 AND 3: Hot, hot, hot!
FLAME 1: We burn, we melt, we fry!
FLAMES 2 AND 3: Hot, hot, hot!
FLAME 1: Our fire none can tame
FLAMES 2 AND 3: Hot, hot, hot!
FLAME 1: Except for God most high!

(FLAMES exit, chanting.)

FLAMES 1, 2 AND 3: Hot, hot, hot! Scene change!

*(Helpers can hold up a curtain while chimes are rung.)
(Enter CHILDREN.)*

CHILD 2: Did the ice help?
CHILD 1: Yes, a little bit. But it still hurts.
CHILD 2: Did you already know that story?
CHILD 1: About the Holy Fire?
CHILD 2: Yes, and the fiery furnace in Babylon.
CHILD 1: No.
CHILD 2: Some of God's children were told to serve a different god, and if they didn't, they would get thrown into a fiery furnace.
CHILD 1: Well! I would just tell a fib. I would not want to go into that furnace.
CHILD 2: Well of course they did not WANT to get burned up.
CHILD 1: Couldn't they just PRETEND to serve the other god?
CHILD 2: No, they said they would rather burn up than serve any other god.
CHILD 1: Wow! Wow...They must have loved God very much!
CHILD 2: I think you are right.
CHILD 1: But if that story is true, the flames were also servants of the most high God.
CHILD 2: Yeah! So awesome!
CHILD 1: But how can something like fire know anything about God?
CHILD 2: That is a mystery. But...the Bible says so.
CHILD 1: The Bible...That is the book about Jesus, right?
CHILD 2: That's right.
CHILD 1: I need to find out more about this God you are always talking about.
CHILD 2: My parents will give you a Bible, and maybe you can come to church with us.
CHILD 1: OK.
CHILD 2: How is your burn doing now?
CHILD 1: It still really hurts. I'm going to throw that lighter away. Fire is not as much fun as I thought.

(Enter FLAMES. CHILDREN back away.)

FLAME 2: Did you say "fire"?
CHILD 1: Oh, no! Get away from me!
FLAME 1: We are not going to burn you, this time.

FLAME 2: We just want to tell you—

FLAME 1: Where to find that Bible story.

FLAME 3: It's in Daniel Chapter 3. All together now! One two three—

ALL: And that's all for today! You can read more about holy fire in the Bible!

FLAME 3: Look in Daniel Chapter 3!

FLAME 1: Also in Second Kings Chapter 2!

FLAME 2: And in Exodus Chapter 3!

ALL: Goodbye!

(ALL exit.)

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think CHILD 1 wanted to play with the lighter, even after CHILD 2 warned against it?
2. The FLAMES say fire is "God's business"—what does that tell us about the things in life that seem scary or out of control?
3. How did the three young men in Daniel 3 show they trusted God, even before they knew He would save them?
4. What are some things in your own life that feel too big or too scary to hand over to God?
5. Why do you think the flames obeyed God even though they were told to spare the three men but burn the soldiers?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: Daniel 3 – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into a fiery furnace for refusing to worship a golden idol, and God protects them so completely that not even their clothes are singed.

Additional Scripture:

- Exodus 3:2 – the burning bush that did not burn up, where God first spoke to Moses. (Reference only.)
- 2 Kings 2:11 – Elijah is taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire. (Reference only.)

Song Suggestions

- "Shadrach" – Louis Armstrong And The All-Stars – <https://open.spotify.com/track/3FceAAUVLW70aKetUrg9e>

Ministry Context

This play works well for a series on trusting God in scary or dangerous situations, or on God's power over nature. It pairs naturally with a reading of Daniel 3, and gives kids a memorable, playful way to picture fire itself as something under God's authority rather than something to fear.