



JANUARY 11, 2026

SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO

DANIEL 3

CHRIST CONNECTION

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to anything but God. When we trust in Jesus and God brings us from death to life, we turn away from worshiping anything else. Jesus is Savior and Lord over our lives.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 10:31

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Daniel 3 contains one of the most powerful declarations in the Bible—a declaration so bold that it has inspired believers to stand firm in their faith, regardless of hardships or persecution. But before we get to that declaration, we must understand the situation in which it was given.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced a seemingly impossible situation. King Nebuchadnezzar had set up a massive golden statue and invited everyone to join him in commemorating the event by bowing down and worshiping the idol. When the call went out to bow down, everyone obeyed the king's command except for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. King Nebuchadnezzar was furious. He summoned the men and gave them a second chance to bow to the statue while reminding them that if they refused to bow, he would have them thrown into a fiery furnace where they would surely die.

Given the ultimatum, the three men declared, "If the God we serve exists, then He can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and He can rescue us from the power of you, the king. But even if He does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up" (Daniel 3:16-18). The boldest part of that statement comes in the second sentence, when they say, "even if He does not." They stood before this powerful king and declared that they would not bow regardless of what happened to them.

Ultimately, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace where a mysterious fourth man walked with them. God rescued them from death, and His name was praised among the people. As we read the story of these three men, we see them refuse the temptation to bow down to anyone or anything other than the one true God. Encourage kids to be ready to stand firm in their faith like these three men and to remember that Jesus has promised to be with those who trust in Him.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

MEMORY VERSE

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's Memory Verse folder to review the verse with the kids. A hand motion video is also available to learn and review on your room's TV.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on January 25!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO

When King Nebuchadnezzar defeated God's people, he brought back young men from Judah to be his servants. Daniel, Shadrach (SHAD rak), Meshach (MEE shak), and Abednego (uh BED-nih goh) were some of the young men who were captured and brought to Babylon.

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar set up a large gold statue and invited everyone to a special dedication ceremony. A messenger of the king proclaimed, "People of every nation and language, you are commanded: whenever you hear music, you are to fall facedown and worship this gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship the statue will immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire."

When the music played, everyone fell down and worshiped. Everyone, that is, except for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They knew they were commanded by God to worship Him alone.

Some of the people of Babylon knew that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not worship the golden statue. They told King Nebuchadnezzar, and he became very angry. He gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to him.

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came before the king, the king said, "If you do not obey my command when the music plays, I will immediately throw you into a furnace of blazing fire. What god can rescue you from that?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "King Nebuchadnezzar, the God we serve can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire and from your power. But even if He does not rescue us, we want you to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up."

Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage. He made the furnace seven times hotter than usual and had Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego tied up and thrown in the furnace. The flames were so hot, the men who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego up to the furnace died from the heat.

Suddenly, King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up, surprised. "Didn't we throw three bound men into the fire? Then why do I see four men, not tied up, walking around in the fire unharmed? The fourth man looks like a son of the gods!"

He called Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego servants of the Most High God and told them to come out. Not a hair of their heads was burned, and there was no smell of fire on them.

Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent His angel and rescued His servants. I issue a new decree: anyone who says anything bad about their God will be punished, for there is no other god who can save like theirs."

CHRIST CONNECTION: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to anything but God. When we trust in Jesus and God brings us from death to life, we turn away from worshiping anything else. Jesus is Savior and Lord over our lives.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

MAIN ACTIVITY

If you have a smaller group, you can do this activity all together. If you have a larger group, divide kids into four groups and provide each group with the supplies to do this activity as you lead them in it.

Place the cup of water, the peeled orange, and the unpeeled orange on a table front of you. Let kids see the difference between the oranges, then ask them what they think will happen when you put the oranges in the water.

Place the peeled orange in the water and watch it sink. Then take the peeled orange out and put the unpeeled orange in the water. As this orange floats, discuss how the peel gives the orange buoyancy, which allows it to float instead of sink.

CONNECT THE DOTS



Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego bravely obeyed God's commands, even if it meant they would die. But God protected them and revealed that He is the God who saves. Just like the peel surrounding the orange made the orange float, God's protection surrounded the men in the furnace so they didn't get burned. When we place our faith in Jesus, we're covered in His righteousness and saved from sin and death.



BIBLE SKILLS

You have a new resource in your rooms! On the wall is a Bible Timeline that can help illustrate how all the stories of the Bible are a part of God's bigger story.

Spend some time explaining the timeline to kids (there will be additional resources provided to help you) and start reviewing the order of the different eras in the timeline.

Using the smaller timeline cards, challenge kids to put the eras in order.

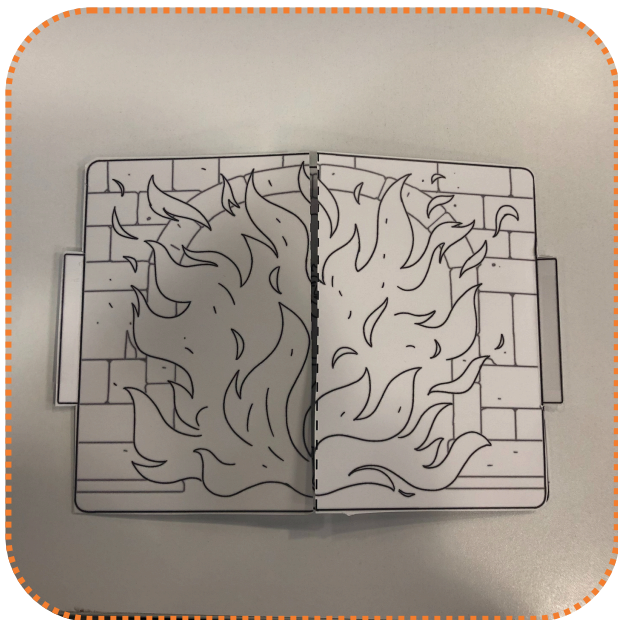
ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

OPTIONAL CRAFT

For anyone who wants to do a craft, hand out the craft printable along with markers, scissors, and glue sticks. Kids can color the page as they want, then cut out the flames and glue them onto the picture of the men in the furnace using the flaps on the sides.



CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue?
2. Why do you think God allowed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be thrown in the fiery furnace?
3. Why does God allow His people to face scary, challenging, and uncertain times?
4. Nebuchadnezzar said that 'no other god can save like' the three men's God. Why is God alone able to save?
5. Why is obeying God more important than following what others may be doing?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!