



THREE MEN IN THE FIERY FURNACE

Daniel 3

Memory Verse

**“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.”
Psalm 34:7**

Context

Nebuchadnezzar was a great king of Babylon. Daniel and three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were Jewish captives who were trained for the king's service. They impressed the king so greatly that Daniel was made governor of the province of Babylon, and the other three were administrators under Daniel. Even though they were in top jobs, their allegiance was to God. The heathen nations believed that gods of a victorious nation must be stronger than the gods of a defeated nation. Immediately before this story, Daniel had interpreted the king's dream about a giant statue being knocked down by a comet as a sign that all earthly kingdoms would be torn down and dispersed.

Summary

Nebuchadnezzar erected a colossal statue, covered in gold, for the people to worship. Everyone was ordered to bow down and worship this image. Anyone who refused would be eliminated as a traitor and potential rival to the king. When the king found out that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were not bowing to the image he offered them another chance. They refused, confessing their faith and confidence in their all-powerful God. They trusted God could save them, but even if he did not rescue them, they still would not worship any god but him. They are thrown into the furnace, but instead of dying they are seen in the furnace with another person protecting them. When they came out of the furnace completely unharmed, the king had to admit defeat and recognise God's superior power. Their courageous witness led a heathen king to honour their God.

Relevance/Application

Themes: Courage, hope, trust

Younger students:

- God is always with us.
- We can trust God in hard times.
- We should remain obedient to God, no matter the potential threat.
- We can pray to God anywhere, anytime.

Older students:

- In the midst of fear, God does not abandon us.
- There will be times of persecution.
- We need not be afraid of persecution because God is faithful.

Christian Studies Framework

Christian Church: Key Idea 2: The Christian Church is shaped by and shapes its cultural and historical contexts.

Band B – persecution, freedom to worship, martyrs and missionaries.

Christian Living: Key Idea 1: Christians believe that God creates people to live in relationship with him and each other.

ALL – Reflect on relationship with God, identify in God relationships with others.

Christianity in the World Key Idea 1: Religious beliefs and ideas shape people's thinking and actions

Beginning: People think and act differently, we are to treat difference with respect.

Catechism Connections

The First Commandment.

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

Discussion/Wondering Questions:

Early Years

- Have you ever been scared?
- What did these men do when they were in a scary time?
- What can you do when you are alone and scared?

Primary

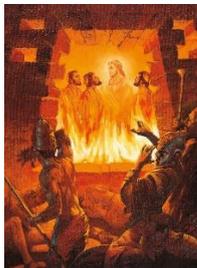
- Have you ever felt different from everyone else? What did this feel like? Would you proud to be different or ashamed?
- Have you ever been alone and asked God to be with you?
- Who do you think the fourth person in the furnace was?
- What can we learn about God from this story?

Secondary

- Share a time when you stood up for something you believed in.
 - What are the potential consequences of speaking up against a crowd at school/sport?
 - Why is it important to remain true to yourself and your beliefs?
 - Where is God in this story? What does this teach us about where God is in our lives?
 - The statue of the king was an idol (an object people worship). We can make idols of anything we give more importance than God. What kinds of idols might people worship these days?
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Images or objects to spark discussion

Who looks afraid in this image?



In time of trial, the three men called on the LORD to help them.



Images of being different from the crowd.



Images of being alone.



Telling the Story

Bibles: The Beginner's Bible
The Big Rescue Bible
The NIV Bible

Children's books

- Superbook: The Fiery Furnace - an excellent discussion guide can be found at https://cdn.superbook.cbn.com/sites/default/files/download_resources/Fiery_Furnace_FG.pdf
- Adventure Bible: Facing the Blazing Furnace

Creative Storytelling:

Tracts and Other Resources

GROW Ministries – [Grow Kids Proper 10 Year B Woven Together – August - Daniel 3 God saves Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego](#)



Lutheran Tract Mission – [Our Fiery Furnaces](#) tract – great short devotion and prayer for older readers/adults

Audio Stories/Podcasts

Kids Corner – Bible Stories – [The Fiery Furnace](#)

[Bible.is](#) - Audio recordings of the Bible in many different languages and several English translations. Searchable by book and chapter. Excellent resource for NESB learners.

Videos

Early Years/Junior Primary:

[The Fiery Furnace - Saddleback Kids](#)
[Rach, Shack, and Benny | VeggieTales](#)

Middle-Upper Primary:

[Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - Bible Explorers](#)
[Fiery Furnace - Silly Scriptures](#)
[Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: The Furnace of Fire - Daniel 3 Bible Story - ShareFaith Kids](#)

Secondary/Staff:

[Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: The Furnace of Fire - Daniel 3 Bible Story - ShareFaith Kids](#)

[Bible Project: the Book of Daniel](#) Gives a very good overview of Daniel and provides context. More teaching on this story is needed.

[Daniel 3 - Nebuchadnezzar's Statue Bible Study - Spoken Gospel](#)
[The Hunger Games: Katniss and Peeta Reaping Scene \[HD\] - YouTube](#)

Invocation

We gather in the name of God our Protector, Jesus our Saviour and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter. **Amen.**

Prayers

Prayer

Dear God,
You are the God of all creation. You are **our** Creator.
Thank you for protecting Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego in their scary times.
Please show us how powerful you are in our own times of fear and worry.
Help us to trust you and be courageous for you.
Let our faith in you be a witness of hope to those around us.
Amen

Dear Father in heaven, thank you for sending your angels to look after us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so we can be courageous and face all our fears. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you for this food and your presence with us.
Nourish our bodies and our spirits for your work.
Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord Himself go before and be with you. May He never leave you nor forsake you. May you never be afraid or discouraged. (Deut 31:8)

Thanks be to God.

OR

Encourage participants to bless each other, using the following words (Name), may God give you strength to face your fears.

Music

[Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego](#) by Al Smith and Helen McAlerney Barth
[VBS 2021](#)- Song with lyrics and dance clip.

[Another in the Fire](#) by Hillsong UNITED

[Fires](#) by Jordan St. Cyr

[Rescuer](#) by Rend Collective

Activities

Early Years:

Paper Bag furnace



Primary:

Paint splat activity and Stained glass window:



Upper Primary/Secondary:

- Retell this story as modern-day school yard story. What might the peer pressure be? How are people excluded when they don't do what others tell them to do?
- Write a message to the three men from the perspective of the angel who stands beside them in the story.
- Write an explanation for this painting. Why did the painter portray the emotions of the characters in the painting in this way?

