



BK WEEKEND

January 11 & 12, 2020

The Fiery Furnace (Lesson 2)

Daniel 3

Unit: Hope in Exile

Unit Bible Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Bible Story: Nebuchadnezzar (NEB yoo kad NEZ uhr), the king of Babylon, did not love God. One day, King Nebuchadnezzar made a tall statue out of gold. The king's official gave a new rule to all the people. He said, "Whenever you hear the sound of music, fall to your knees and worship this gold statue." Then he said, "Anyone who does not obey this new rule will be thrown into a very hot fire!"

So, when the music played, everyone in Babylon fell to their knees and worshiped the gold statue, except for three men: Shadrach (SHAD rak), Meshach (MEE shak), and Abednego (uh BED-nih goh). They worshiped God, and they knew God did not want them to worship anyone or anything else.

Some of the people told the king that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not bow down to the statue. The king was angry! He called for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and said, "If you do not fall to your knees and worship the statue, I will throw you into a very hot fire!"

The three friends said, "King, we worship God. God can save us from the fire. But even if He does not save us, we will not worship the gold statue." Now the king was very mad! He made the fire even hotter and told some of his soldiers to tie up the three friends and throw them into the fire.

All of a sudden, the king stood up. "Didn't we throw three men into the fire?" he asked. "I see four men walking around in the fire! They aren't hurt or tied up! The fourth man looks like an angel!"

Then the king said, "Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come here!"

The friends came out of the fire. They were not burned and did not smell like smoke. They had not been hurt at all! God was with them, and He had saved them from the fire!

The king praised God and made a new rule for all the people. "Anyone who says anything bad about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's God will be punished. Only God can save people from death!" Then the king gave Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego important jobs in his kingdom.

Questions/Discussion

- 1) What would you have done if you were Shadrach, Meshach or Abednego?
- 2) Why do we worship God alone?

Christ Connection: God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire. Only He could rescue them. God rescues us too, through His Son, Jesus. Only Jesus can save us from our sin. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross provided the way for us to be rescued from sin and have eternal life.

Family Activity: Play some worship music and worship God as a family.

Prayer: God, thank You for sending Jesus to save us in an even better way than You saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! You sent Jesus to die so we wouldn't be punished for our sin. He was punished instead. Help us turn from our sin and trust in Him. In Jesus' name, amen.



Lesson Summary: In 587 B.C., the Babylonians laid siege to Jerusalem, and God's people were exiled to Babylon where they would serve an enemy king for 70 years. (See Jer. 25:11.) Among the early exiles was a young man, Daniel, and three of his friends. About 20 years after arriving in Babylon, the three friends faced a test of their faith. King Nebuchadnezzar's law gave them a choice: worship a statue (against God's law) or face death by fiery furnace. (Dan. 3:6)

Three men from Judah - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - refused to bow down and worship the statue. They loved and worshiped the one true God. Only He was worthy of their worship. The Book of Daniel says that the Chaldeans - a group of astrologers and dream interpreters (see Dan. 2:2,4) - took this opportunity to go to the king and tell on Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. But not even the threat of death could convince the three friends to renounce their loyalty to God.

Help your kids consider the possibilities: God could keep the friends from being thrown into the furnace. Or, once in the furnace, God could keep them from being harmed. Or if they perished, God would receive them into heaven. The friends' trust in God enabled them to stand firm no matter what - even as they were tied up and thrown into the fire.

Then something miraculous happened. Nebuchadnezzar saw four men in the fire! They were walking around, unharmed! The Lord not only rescued Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, He was with them.

On the cross, people mocked Jesus: "He saved others, but he cannot save himself!" (Mark 15:31). Jesus was not physically unable to save Himself. He chose to do His Father's will, and His love for sinners kept Him there. Jesus chose not to save Himself so that He could save others.

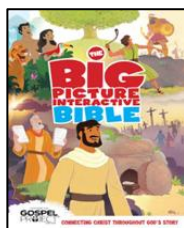
As you talk with your kids, remind them that God was with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fire. Only He could rescue them. God rescues us too, through His Son, Jesus. Only Jesus can save us from our sin. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross provided the way for us to be rescued from sin and have eternal life.

Unit Key Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

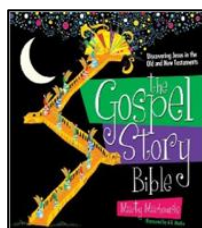
- *Age 2 – 3:* "...pray...give thanks..."
- *Age 4 – 5:* "...pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances..."
- *Grade K – 3:* "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God..."
- *Preteen:* "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Preteen Daily Readings: This week's (**January 5**) readings are Ezekiel 18:21-23, Psalm 94:12-14, Romans 10:17, John 4:13-14, John 1:4 and Colossians 2:3-4.

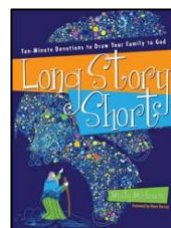
Family Devotional: Our desire is for kids to hear from the Bible first at home and then have the message be reinforced at church on the weekend. In addition to, or in lieu of the provided story, you can use these devotionals with your family. These can be purchased in the Berean Café.



Age 2-5, Page 142



Grade K-3, Story 73



Grade 4-5, Week 73