

**Shadrach,
Meshach, and
Abendego**
Daniel 3

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

So whether you eat or drink or
whatever you do, do it all for the
glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

Story Point:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego obeyed God
by refusing to worship the gold statue.



PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Starter Activity and Question of the Day
- ☐ 11:00 - Kids Worship



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ Lesson Review - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendego
- ☐ Discussion Questions
- ☐ Group Demonstration: What's It Worth?



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Group Activity: God Protected Them
- ☐ Share and Care Prayer Time
- ☐ Group Activity: Bible Story Trivia

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Many churches participate in child dedication services, during which parents present their child before fellow believers and commit to raising their son or daughter in a way that honors the Lord. To be dedicated means to be set apart with a commitment to living for Jesus. There are many examples of dedicating oneself to the Lord throughout Scripture, and this week, we will explore one such story. Daniel's three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, were devoted to God. Though threatened with execution when they refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar, they remained steadfast in their dedication to God. They set themselves apart to love and follow the God of Israel, and they refused to let their faith be derailed by a pagan king. Prepare to teach this familiar story to kids by reading the full Biblical narrative in Daniel 3 and considering the following key points.

God is greater than any threat. When we feel threatened or fearful, we can remember that God is bigger than anything we could ever be afraid of. He is sovereign over all creation, and His power extends to that which may cause us harm. In every moment, God is present with us and brings us assurance and peace in all circumstances.

God alone is worthy of our worship. We worship that which we value most. God's value is immeasurable. He is perfect and holy, and no one is above Him in glory. To give our hearts and minds to anything or anyone else is to forfeit the joy of worshiping the only One who truly deserves it.

We can be courageous in our faith. As we hold onto the knowledge of God's strength and constant presence, believers can stand firm and act boldly in faith. God did not create us to cower in fear but to live courageously for the sake of pointing others to Jesus.

As you teach kids this week, guide them to see that our courage comes from the truth that God is strong. Believers do not rely on their own power but on the power of God's Spirit working through them. Help kids see that they can dedicate their lives to the Lord and experience the peace that comes from being joined in faith to their Creator.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 10:20 - 10:30 in C1.
Your supply bin will be in your classroom.



GRADES 3-4

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW

January 4, 2026
2nd Service

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that God alone is worthy of our worship.
- *TRUST in God and that He is with them.
- *STAND firm in their faith.



As you arrive and children come and go - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the others. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.

When most kids have arrived for 2nd service (by 10:50ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Option - Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

Starter Activity

Welcome and
Question of the
Day

Question of the Day:

Have you ever been so dedicated to something that you were willing to give up doing something else? [Allow responses.]

For example, maybe you are on the basketball team at school, and you were willing to go to extra practices instead of playing video games on the weekends. Or maybe you were reading a really exciting book, and you decided to stay home to finish it instead of going to the pool with friends. When we feel dedicated to something, we're often willing to give up doing other things.

In the story we will hear today, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were dedicated to the Lord. Because of their faith and devotion to God, they refused to bow down and worship anything or anyone else.



**KIDS
WORSHIP**

11:00

Kids Worship for Pre-K - 4th Grade in LG2.



ACTIVE MINDS

You can use the REVIEW VIDEO on your TV and / or use this lesson as a review of what was taught 1st service.

Open your Bible to Daniel 3. You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Bibles,
Review Video –
Bible story on TV

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE:

God is greater than any threat (Daniel 3:8-23): Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were commanded to worship the statue, but they trusted God and chose not to bow down to it.

God alone is worthy of our worship (Daniel 3:1-7): King Nebuchadnezzar made a huge statue and required people to bow down to it, but only God is worthy of our worship.

We can be courageous in our faith (Daniel 3:24-30): Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego courageously refused to bow down to anything but God, and God protected them.

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.

What did you hear in the story? Did anything surprise you? [Allow responses.] Nebuchadnezzar built a huge golden statue. What did he require all the people to do? What was the punishment for not doing it? [Read Daniel 3:4-6.] Yikes! Anyone who refused to worship the statue would be thrown in a huge furnace! **What would you do if you had been there?** [Allow responses.] Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to anything but God. They were so fully dedicated to the Lord that they were willing to risk death rather than dishonor God. God rescued them from the furnace. [Read Daniel 3:23-27.] **How did Nebuchadnezzar respond when they came out of the fire unharmed?** [Read Daniel 3:28.] He gave glory to God!

This story isn't just about three men in Babylon who refused to bow down to a statue. This story also matters for us today. When we trust in Jesus, God brings us from death to life and we turn away from worshiping anything else because nothing else in the world is worthy of our worship. Jesus is Savior and Lord over our lives.



Discussion

Discussion questions listed here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue? Discuss how Nebuchadnezzar was prideful, and he wanted people to worship him. By commanding people to bow down to the statue, he demonstrated that he wanted to be in control. Remind kids that only God is worthy of worship. Idolatry is a sin. Discuss ways we might be tempted to bow down to modern-day idols (put other things or people before God). (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Lev. 26:1.)

Why does God allow His people to face scary, challenging, and uncertain times? Remind kids that God does everything for His glory and our good. Explain how we might not always understand why we face a difficult circumstance, but we can trust God is in control and working for the good of those who love Him. Share how sometimes He uses challenging times to help us remember to trust Him, depend on Him, and point others to Him. When people see Christians faithful to worship God in difficulty, it is a powerful witness to God's goodness and grace. Remind kids that God allowed Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Gen. 50:20.)

Why is obeying God always best? Tell kids that obeying God is always best because God knows what is best for us, even when we might not understand it. Share how following God may not always be easy, but we can trust He will lead us to life. Jesus always obeyed God because He trusted God's plan. We can trust God's plan for our lives, knowing that He gave Jesus to save us, and in Jesus we have everything we need. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 8:31-32.)



What's It Worth?

- "What's It Worth" picture printables
- Tape

Display the "What's It Worth" photos of items for all the kids to see. Give each table group a price tag printable and have them discuss together which item they think matches their price. Have them send a volunteer to tape their price tag to the item.

SAY: Great job! Everything we own comes with a price tag. Some things like houses and cars cost a lot of money, while other items like candy bars or colored pencils cost less. If you have a valuable item that's worth a lot of money, how would you treat it? Imagine you have a one-of-a-kind teddy bear that was worth \$10,000. Do you think you would take special care of that bear? Probably so! With something so valuable you are not likely to drag it around outside in the mud or bring it to the breakfast table where you might spill syrup on it.

Think back to our Bible story. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had something incredibly valuable to them: their relationship with the one true God of Israel. They treated God with respect and honor because they knew that God was worthy of their dedication and worship. These men were willing to die rather than dishonor God. [Read Daniel 3:16-18.]

What about you? Do you value God above everything else? Are you willing to dedicate your life to the Lord and commit to loving and obeying Him?

These might seem like hard questions to answer. But consider everything that God has done for you and everyone else in this room. We all fall short and need God's help. We disobey, and we know that our disobedience deserves to be punished. But instead of punishing us, God Himself came into this world to take our punishment. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was willing to die for us on the cross to set us free and secure a place in God's Kingdom for us. Knowing that this is true helps us understand how very much God loves us. He wants good things for us, and His plans for us are for our good and His glory. We can dedicate ourselves to God and worship Him alone because He alone is worthy!



God Protected Them

- Bibles
- "God Protected Them" group sheets
- Pencils
- 11x17 - God Protected Them

Divide the class by table groups. Pass out a half-sheet and pencil to each group. Have them use their Bibles to look up the two passages on their sheet and identify the person or people whom God protected. Then, have them write down their names and describe how God protected them in their situation.

After every group has their answers, come back together as a whole group. Have them share with the class what they found. Use the large chart (11x17 sheet - "God Protected Them") or the white board and fill it in as they share.

Ask: How does seeing God's protection in these stories encourage your faith?

Does this mean that God will always protect us in the ways that we want?

No, but it does mean that God is always with us in the good and the bad and that we can trust in God's love and faithfulness in all things.

God Protected Them - Group 1		
Passage	Name(s) of who God protected	How God protected them
Genesis 6:8-22		
Exodus 14:21-29		

GOD PROTECTED THEM		
Look up the Bible passages listed below. Identify the person or people whom God protected. Write down their names and describe how God protected them in the situation.		
Bible Passage	Name of Person(s) Protected	How God Protected Them
Genesis 6:8-22		
Exodus 14:21-29		
1 Samuel 17:37-49		
Daniel 6:10-23		
Acts 12:5-11		
Psalms 34:6-7		
2 Kings 6:15-17		
Luke 8:22-25		
Acts 16:25-34		
Matthew 23:15		
How does seeing God's protection in these stories encourage your faith?		



Share and Care Prayer

Spend some time as a class sharing about:

- Our Global Partner Family of the Month (**The Geesey Family**)
- Ask for specific prayer requests that any of the kids have to share about something going on in their own lives.

Have the class sit in a circle as you share and care for one another's needs. Ask for and share requests with one another. Review and follow up with any prayer requests from the chain made the week before. Use the Global Partner of the Month spotlight sheet (In the Pen Pal Kit) to talk about prayer requests from the Saragih Family.



Bible Story Trivia

- Bell

Guide kids to form teams of four or five people.

Place the bell at the front of the room and let each team appoint a runner.

The leader will read a review question from the list below, the teams will confer together, and their runner will run to the bell and ring it before the other team. The first team to turn on the light gets to answer the question. If they are correct, they win a point for their team.

- Who was the king who built a golden statue? (Nebuchadnezzar)
- Who were the three men who refused to bow to the statue? (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)
- What was the punishment for not bowing to the statue? (being thrown in the furnace)
- How many times hotter did King Nebuchadnezzar heat the furnace? (7 times)
- How many men did the King see in the fire? (4)
- True or False - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told the king that their God would save them from the furnace, but even if He did not, they still wouldn't worship the golden statue. (True)
- Who rescued the three men in the fire? (God)
- What happened to the men who threw the three friends into the fire? (they were killed)
- Did the men come out unharmed? (Yes)
- Which book of the Bible is today's story found in? (Daniel)
- What is a way we can glorify God?
- What did Nebuchadnezzar do when he saw the miracle? (praised God)

SAY: Great job remembering our story! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were leaders in Babylon, but they had been born and raised in Judah. They had given their lives to the God of Israel, and they weren't about to give up their faith to bow down to the gold statue. Do you think it helped them remain faithful to have each other there in the fire? I bet it did. God gives believers a gift in Christian community. We need each other, and God uses us to encourage one another to keep following Jesus, even when it gets tough. Who is someone you can encourage this week?