

**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

- ☐ Welcome -
What's Changed?
- ☐ Starter Activity -
Protection Gear



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- ☐ Review and discuss the
Bible Story
- ☐ Reflection and Prayer
- ☐ Questions from Kids Video



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Key Passage Activity -
Memorizing Strategies
- ☐ Group Activity: Idols of
Today
- ☐ Group Activity -
Love with Your Whole Self

SHEPHERD GUIDE

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.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1.
Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

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 children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children. 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 first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

OPENING QUESTIONS:

WELCOME

What's Changed?

activity page,
pencils,
markers

Tell me about a time when you heard something unbelievable. Maybe you heard news that was hard to believe, or perhaps you saw something amazing you've never seen before.

Invite kids to complete the "What's Changed?" activity page.

Today, we'll learn how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to a gold statue and were thrown into a fiery furnace. But we'll also see how something amazing happened!



STARTER Protection Gear

- Paper
- Pens

Form kids into groups of three or four and give each group a piece of paper and a pen.

Tell groups to assign one kid to be the writer. Explain that you will call out a category, like construction work, and groups will have 15 seconds to write down as many items used for protection as they can think of. Groups may write hard hats, safety goggles, gloves, work boots, ear muffs, coveralls, etc.

The group to write the most items for that category earns a point. If groups tie, award each group a point.

****Other category options include: football, bike riding, horseback riding, firefighters, race car driving. The team with the most points at the end of all the rounds wins.**

SAY: Some activities or jobs can be dangerous and require certain protective gear. Today, we will learn how three men needed to be protected from a fiery furnace. No protective gear would have been able to save them. We'll see how only God was able to provide the protection they needed.



ACTIVE MINDS

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 4th Grade in LG2

BIBLE STORY:

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

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

Open your Bible to Daniel 3.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Use dramatic voice: Help kids distinguish between King Nebuchadnezzar and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego by altering the tone in your voice as you read spoken words in the story.

Display pictures: Find and display pictures of some famous statues. Explain that statues often are designed to look like certain people or animals. Remind kids that worshipping anything other than God is disobedience because only He is worthy of worship.

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.



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

**

Allow time to have the children think and process - however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

**

In small groups (or as a large group), talk through these questions.

King Nebuchadnezzar built a huge golden statue and ordered everyone to bow down and worship it when they heard music play. He warned that anyone who refused would be thrown into a fiery furnace! But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego loved God and refused to worship the statue, even though it meant they would be thrown into the fiery furnace. **Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow to the statue?** [Allow responses.] Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego loved God and desired to obey Him. They knew God is the only true God, worthy of all worship.

When King Nebuchadnezzar heard they wouldn’t bow, he was furious! He gave them one last chance to worship the statue before being thrown in the furnace, but they still refused to bow down. **What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego say about God?** Look at Daniel 3:17-18. [Ask a volunteer to read Daniel 3:17-18 aloud.] They told the king that God was powerful enough to rescue them—but even if He didn’t, they would never follow the king’s orders to bow down to the idol. The men chose to trust that God’s plan was best for them, even if it meant facing something scary. Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

When the men were thrown into the fiery furnace, something amazing happened! **What did King Nebuchadnezzar see?** Look at Daniel 3:24-25. [Ask a volunteer to read Daniel 3:24-25 aloud.] The king saw four men walking in the fire, and the fourth one looked like a son of the gods. Many Bible scholars believe the fourth man was God the Son—Jesus. God allowed the three friends to be thrown into the fire, but He was protecting them. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship the gold statue, and God rescued them.



Reflection and Prayer

Journal Page

Have children use their journal page. Answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

• **What does this story teach me about God?**

That God is greater than any earthly authority. Nothing and no one on earth deserves the worship that should be reserved for God alone. God honors the obedience of His children. He is with His people during times of hardship.

• **What does this story teach me about myself?**

That there are many things that try to take my heart and mind away from God. That idols come in many different forms, not just statues - it's anything that I view as more important than God.

That I need God's help to turn away from these worthless things and to worship Him alone!

Prayer: *God, we are so thankful for this time we have together to learn from the Bible. You have blessed us in so many ways. We give You thanks for the good things You have given us, and we want to focus our hearts and minds on You. We dedicate ourselves to You, and we worship You alone. You are an amazing God, and we love You! Amen.*



Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the "Unit 16, Session 2" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- Where do we go if we do not believe in God when we die?
- Have you trusted in Jesus? Will you be with God in heaven?



ENGAGE HEARTS

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 Corinthians 10:31 together.

Key Passage Activity:

Memorizing Strategies

- Index Cards
- Pens
- Markers
- Bibles

SAY: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego glorified God through their obedience to worship only Him. Our key passage reminds us that we are also called to glorify God in all that we do.

Distribute an index card and a Bible to each kid. Lead kids to find the key passage in their Bible and write the verse on their card. Encourage kids to use their card to help them memorize the key passage.

Have them flip their index card over and write the first letter of each word of the verse.

- Example - SWYEODOWYD, DIAFTGOG. - 1 Corinthians 10:31

Talk about how they can use this method to practice memorizing verses. The first letter prompts them on what the words are without looking at the whole verse.

Pray together:

God, thank You for showing Your great power to save through the lives of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. As we seek to worship You alone, give us the courage to obey Your Word in all circumstances. Amen.



Idols of Today

- Idols worksheet
- Pens
- Markers
- Colored Pencils

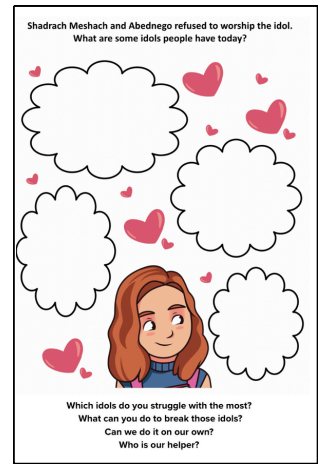
Provide each kid with an “Idols of Today” worksheet.

Talk about how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendego refused to worship the idol. This might not seem like something we have to worry about today, since we don’t have any big statues that a king wants us to bow down to, but the Bible says that anything that we put ahead of God as more important or that takes up more of our time and thoughts than God, is an idol.

Discuss different idols that people have today. (ex. sports, video games, getting good grades, fashion, money, phones, social media, youtube, etc.)

Have the children draw pictures in the thought bubbles of their ideas.

Ask - What idols do you struggle with the most? What can you do to break those idols? Can we do it on our own? Who can help you? (God!) Pray for an open and willing heart to trust and obey God’s commands and to follow Him with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.



Love with Your Whole Self

- Bible
- Craft paper with person outline
- Beanbag

Review the big picture question and answer. Read Mark 12:30 and remind kids that loving God with our whole self is Jesus’ greatest commandment.

Draw a basic person shape on a large piece of paper and tape it to the floor. Draw hearts on the head, hands, chest, and feet (This will be done for you!)

Invite one volunteer at a time to line up a few feet away from the person figure; hand them a beanbag.

Invite them to toss the beanbag at one of the hearts.

- If the beanbag lands on the head, ask the class to name some ways they can love and obey God with their mind (such as Bible study).
- If the beanbag lands near the chest, have them name ways to love God with their heart (such as worship).
- If it lands near a hand or a foot, have them name ways to obey God with their strength (such as serving).

Ask for different volunteers to toss the beanbag and brainstorm ways to love and obey God - write them on the whiteboard.

Talk about how Shadrach, Meshach and Abendego showed their love for God through their actions, and that we can show our love for God through our actions as well. Pray together; thanking God and asking for His help in loving and following Him.