

# SOCCER LEAGUE DEVOTIONS

Parent Companion Guide

## PRACTICE 3

### CONVICTION

is standing for what is right even  
when others don't.



UPWARD  
SPORTS

### KEY VERSE

**AS FOR THE REST OF YOU, DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,  
NEVER GET TIRED OF DOING GOOD.**

**2 THESSALONIANS 3:13 (NLT)**

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**Bottom Line: When you stand for what's right, others can see God.**

Have you ever heard the story about three guys named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Well, besides having some cool names, these three guys were really brave. They showed conviction in a way that you and I will probably never have to.

King Nebuchadnezzar (another cool name) was the head guy in charge. And he didn't follow God. Instead, he thought it would be better to pray to a statue. So he had this 90-foot-tall gold statue built, and he made a law that everyone had to bow down and worship it. And if you didn't, guess what? The king said you would be thrown into a fiery furnace.

Well, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had the conviction to say, "This is not right!" They knew that only the one true God deserved their worship! As you can imagine, King Nebuchadnezzar was furious! He called them in to give them a chance to explain themselves. And they told him this: "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up." (Daniel 3:17-18, NLT)

Can you believe that? Talk about conviction. Have you heard the rest of the story? They were thrown into the furnace. And God did save them. But even if he had not, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego still knew something really important. When you stand for what's right, others will see God. They knew that they had influence. They knew that their choice to follow God would be seen by others. And when they walked out of that furnace without any marks or burns, King Nebuchadnezzar realized there really was only one true God!

The same is true for you and me. We have the opportunity every day to show conviction. And when we do, just like in this amazing story, we can show others who God is!

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## CONVERSATION STARTERS

(K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

- Who saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
- What do you think made them so brave?

(3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

- What would you have done if you were in Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's shoes?
- Why did it matter if they did or didn't bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's statue?

(7<sup>th</sup> Grade and up)

- What do you think enabled Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to make such a courageous stand?
- What does this story teach us about God?

## GOING DEEPER

This week, spend time reading Daniel 3:1-30. This is a long passage, but the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is incredible. Talk about what happened in this story with your child. Explain to them that one of God's most important laws was that His people should not worship any other gods or make idols of any gods (Exodus 20:1-6). There are multiple reasons this story is amazing—what are they? What was King Nebuchadnezzar's response to everything that happened?