

SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO

DANIEL 3



CHRIST CONNECTION: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego only worshiped God. When we trust in Jesus, we worship only Him because He is the one true Savior.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving and obeying Him.

KEY PASSAGE: Do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

STORY POINT: God protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Daniel 3 contains one of the most powerful declarations in the Bible—a declaration so bold 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 set up a massive golden statue and invited everyone to join him in commemorating the event by bowing down and worshipping 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.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find the hidden message

- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- large envelope



LEARN

Build a fire

- red, orange, and yellow tissue paper, 1 piece per child
- paper towel tubes

Tell the Bible story

- "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- sticky notes

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Find gold

- plastic bin
- sand
- sand tools
- tablecloth
- large gold coins

Count and group people figures

- toy people figures



LIVE

Paint with red, yellow, and orange

- "Key Passage Phrase Labels" printable
- red, yellow, and orange washable paint
- paintbrushes
- heavyweight paper
- disposable plates
- art smocks

Missions activity

- "Manchester Photos" printable
- tea bags

Snack and transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "Circle What Is Hot" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Play with shaving foam

- shaving foam
- red, yellow, orange washable paint
- art smocks
- trays, 1 per group of 4 children

Make music

- various noisemakers or toy instruments



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the room. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

FIND THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

Post the Big Picture Question Poster near the entrance to the room. Tape the Bible Story Picture Poster to the outside of a large envelope. Write the story point on a sheet of paper and place inside the envelope. Hide the envelope in the room. Encourage children to find the hidden message. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you read the message. Invite preschoolers to hide the envelope for the next child to find.

SAY 🗨️ Welcome! I am so glad that you are here today. Our big picture question asks, **How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving and obeying Him.** Our hidden message tells us **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO.** 🗨️

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN the Bible Story

1 BUILD A FIRE

Arrange paper towel tubes in a small pile in the center of the group time area forming a pretend fire pit. Give each child a small piece of tissue paper as you invite them to join you in group time. Encourage preschoolers to wrinkle the paper and place it on the sticks to build a pretend fire.

SAY “Fires are very hot! Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego only worshiped God. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew God could save them from a fire when they refused to worship fake gods. **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO.**”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Daniel 3. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO

SAY “King Nebuchadnezzar took some young men from Judah to work for him. Three of them were named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. One day, the king made a big gold statue and told everyone to bow down and worship it when they heard music. If they did not, he would throw them into a hot, fiery furnace.

When the music played, everyone bowed down—except Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They knew they should only worship God. Some people saw them and told the king. The king got very angry and said, “If you do not bow down, I will throw you into the fire! What god can save you then?”

But the three friends said, “Our God can save us from the fire; but even if He doesn’t, we won’t worship your statue.”

The king was so mad! He made the furnace extra hot and had them thrown in. But then the king saw something surprising! He said, “Didn’t we put three men in the fire? Now I see four men walking around, and one looks like a god!”

The king called the friends out of the fire, and they were not hurt at all—not even their clothes were burned! The king was amazed and said, “Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! No other god can save like He does.”

Christ Connection: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego only worshiped God. When we trust in Jesus, we worship only Him because He is the one true Savior.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Cover the Bible Story Picture Poster with sticky notes. Use one sticky note for each preschooler in your group. You may need to cut the notes into smaller pieces if you have a large group. Invite each preschooler to remove a sticky note to reveal the Bible Story Picture Poster. Talk about what you see and ask questions about the story as the picture is revealed.

SAY “ Who are the people in this picture? (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego) Where are they coming out from? (the fire) Were they hurt? (no) You discovered a picture of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego coming out of the fire. **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO.** They were not hurt at all. Their clothes were not even burned. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego only worshiped God. When we trust in Jesus, we worship only Him because He is the one true Savior. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush”:

Do everything for the glory of God,
The glory of God, the glory of God.
Do everything for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at 1 Corinthians 10:31. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage phrase together several times. Alternate standing up and sitting down as you say each word. For an added challenge, vary your speed as you say the key passage phrase together.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase reminds us to do everything for the glory of God. **How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving and obeying Him.** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego glorified God by refusing to bow down to the statue. They chose to only worship God. ”

6 PRAY

Pray, asking God to help us chose to only worship Him like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 TOSS A BEANBAG

Write the names Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and God on individual pieces of construction paper. Place the papers on the floor. Encourage a preschooler to toss a beanbag toward the papers. If the beanbag lands on Shadrach say, “God protected Shadrach.” Follow the same pattern with Meshach and Abednego. If the beanbag lands on God, say the complete story point.

SAY 🗨️ The king built a big gold statue and told everyone to bow down and worship it. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not bow down. They knew they should only worship God. The king got very angry and threw them into the fire. The king called them to come out of the fire, and they were not hurt at all. The king was amazed! **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO.** 🗨️

2 FIND THE GOLD

Fill a plastic bin halfway full with sand. Bury large gold coins in the sand. Cover a table with a tablecloth and place the bin onto the tablecloth, within reach of preschoolers. Invite preschoolers to use sand tools or their hands to dig through the sand and find the coins. Encourage preschoolers to bury the coins again once they have found them all.

SAY 🗨️ You found several gold coins. King Nebuchadnezzar made a big gold statue and told everyone to bow down and worship it when they heard music. If they did not, he would throw them into a hot, fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not bow down. They knew they should only worship God. The king threw them in the fire, but **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO.** When the friends came out of the fire, they were not hurt at all. When we trust in Jesus, we worship only Him because He is the one true Savior. 🗨️

3 COUNT AND GROUP PEOPLE FIGURES

Place a variety of people figures out for preschoolers to explore. Invite preschoolers to count and group the people figures into groups of three.

SAY 🗨️ You made groups of three people. Three friends named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to a statue that King Nebuchadnezzar made. The king got very angry and said, ‘If you do not bow down, I will throw you into the fire!’ The three friends knew that God could save them from the fire. King Nebuchadnezzar threw them in the fiery furnace, but then he saw something surprising. He said, ‘Didn’t we put three men in the fire? Now I see four men walking around, and one looks like a god!’ The three friends came out of the fire and were not hurt at all. **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO.** 🗨️

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 PAINT WITH RED, YELLOW, AND ORANGE

Place heavyweight paper, washable paints, and paintbrushes on the table. Assist preschoolers with placing an art smock over their clothing. Invite preschoolers to paint with the red, yellow, and orange paints. Encourage preschoolers to place a label from the “Key Passage Phrase Labels” printable onto their papers.

SAY “ You used the colors red, yellow, and orange in your painting. These colors remind me of the fiery furnace where the king put Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Our key passage phrase tells us to do everything for the glory of God. **How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving and obeying Him.** These friends only worshiped God and obeyed Him. They brought glory to God and worshiped Him as the one true God. We can love and obey God and bring glory to Him too. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Display an Allergy Alert Poster and the “Manchester Photos” printable. Tell kids that Manchester, England, is a large city with many museums, parks, and a well-known soccer team. Talk about how many people in England enjoy drinking tea and often have afternoon tea, where they also eat sandwiches or other snacks. Distribute a tea bag to each child, allowing her to smell the tea. Following the activity, pray for more people to help start new churches in England. Ask God to give the Byrds guidance, strength, and provision in the mission He’s called them to in Manchester, England.

SAY “ When Dan and Tara Byrd moved to Manchester, England, they learned how to drive on the left side of the road, how to use a different kind of electrical plug, and how the English have traditions like afternoon tea. But the Byrds also learned that Manchester has many people who do not know Jesus. The Byrds want to find ways to share the gospel with the people of Manchester so they can know the one true God and His Son, Jesus. ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego only worshiped God. When we trust in Jesus, we worship only Him because He is the one true Savior. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 COUNT TO THREE AND FOUR



Invite preschoolers to count with you as you come to group time. Count to three several times, then count to four. Tell preschoolers that the king put three people in the furnace but when he looked, he saw four.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Daniel 3. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO

- King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue and told everyone to bow down and worship it when they heard music, or they would be thrown into a fiery furnace.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down because they knew they should only worship God.
- The king got very angry and threw them into the furnace, but they were not hurt. The king saw a fourth person in the fire who looked like a god.
- The king was amazed and praised the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He said no other god can save like their God does.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush”:

Do everything for the glory of God,
The glory of God, the glory of God.
Do everything for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at 1 Corinthians 10:31. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage phrase together several times. Alternate saying the key passage phrase in loud voice and in a very quiet voice.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God that we can worship Him, the one true God.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 IS IT HOT OR COLD?

Cut a piece of paper into strips. Invite preschoolers to help you think of things that are hot or cold. Ideas could include an ice cream cone, the sun, a snowman, or the stove. Write each idea on a strip of paper. Then invite a child to choose one. If something cold, lead preschoolers in pretending to shiver and shake like they are cold. If something hot, demonstrate how to fan yourself with your hand like you are hot.

SAY “ We thought of several things that were hot or cold. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a very hot furnace when they refused to bow down and worship a statue. The king was so mad that he made the furnace extra hot. The king saw something surprising when he looked in. He had put three men in the fire, but he saw four. The king called the friends out of the fire, and they were not hurt at all. **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO.** ”

7 PLAY WITH SHAVING FOAM

Post an Allergy Alert. Assist preschoolers with placing an art smock over their clothing. Squirt shaving foam onto a tray. Add small drops of red, yellow, and orange washable paint to the foam. Encourage preschoolers to mix the paint into the foam, changing its color.

SAY “ This shaving foam reminds me of a fire when we change the color by adding paint. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a fire because they did not bow down and worship a statue. The king asked the friends, ‘What god can save you?’ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered, ‘Our God can save us from the fire.’ **GOD PROTECTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO.** ”

8 MAKE MUSIC

Place a variety of toy instruments or noisemakers out for preschoolers to explore. Demonstrate how to play each instrument as needed. Encourage preschoolers to work together to make music. Some children may enjoy dancing or singing while their friends play the instruments.

SAY “ You made some beautiful music. King Nebuchadnezzar made a big gold statue and told everyone to bow down and worship it when they heard music. When the music played, everyone bowed down—except Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego only worshiped God. When we trust in Jesus, we worship only Him because He is the one true Savior. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.