

FOUR MEN IN THE FURNACE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: DANIEL 3

**The STORY**

Read the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the ESV Bible, Daniel 3.

***Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What did the king want all the people to do? (The king wanted all the people to bow down to an image of gold.)
- Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow down? (They worshipped the one true God and they would not bow down to a false god.)
- How did the King say he would punish them if they refused to obey? (The king was going to throw them into a fiery furnace.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: furnace door open with four men inside and fallen soldiers outside. Engage the children by asking:

- Who was the fourth person inside the furnace? (An Angel of the Lord, Jesus.)
- What did the king and his officials notice about the three men after they came out of the furnace? (Not a single hair was burnt nor did they even smell like smoke.)
- What happened to the king's attitude after he saw the three men were not harmed? (The king praised the Lord and admitted "there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way".)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack engage the children by asking:

- What is a furnace and what is it normally used for? (A furnace is a metal box in which a fire is built. People use a furnace to heat their homes; a furnace is used to heat iron for making swords; and furnaces are used to burn trash.)
- How do we know the furnace was really hot? (The soldiers who came near it were killed by the flames.)

Where is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

In the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, there is an obvious answer to "Where is Jesus?" The Son of God was with them in the fire as the fourth person. Showing us a glimpse of a greater deliverance, that would save us all believers from the fires of hell, God delivers these men from the flames so that not even their clothing is singed!

Hebrews 11:34 says by faith people "quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens."

Though not mentioned by name in Hebrews 11:34, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego certainly "quenched the violence of fire." These three men are a part of the "great cloud of witnesses" that the book of Hebrews says should motivate us to "fix our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

