



DANIEL

Servant of the Most High God

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum • Summer 2021

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LESSON 3

Scripture: Daniel 3:1-30

Memory Verse: Psalm 57:2

I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill His purpose for me.

*Unless otherwise noted, Scripture is from the New Living Translation of the book of Daniel.



LESSON 3: The Most High God Is Able to Save

So far in our study of the book of Daniel we have talked about the Babylonian Empire that captured Jerusalem and some of its best citizens. That included Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Their names were changed to Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and they went through a period of training. During the time of training, the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, had some troubling dreams. When his own wise men couldn't help, he decided to have them all killed, including those in training who hadn't been consulted. Daniel was one of those. He asked for time and with prayer support from his three friends was able to tell the king his dream and to share the meaning of that dream. All four men were promoted!

Some years later, that same king decided to make a huge, gold statue. It measured 90 feet tall! That's taller than the length of a bowling alley! He ordered all of his officials to come and worship the statue. Anyone who refused would be thrown into a blazing furnace. When everyone was together and the music started "all the people, whatever their race or nation or language, bowed to the ground and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up," that is, all but three: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. (3:7) You see, they learned at an early age that there is only one God who said, "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind...You must not bow down to them or worship them." (Exodus 20:4-5)

As you can probably imagine, someone ran straight to the king to inform him that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego hadn't bowed down to the statue. King Nebuchadnezzar was angry and ordered the three into his presence. He questioned them and then gave them another chance. He warned them, "but if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?" (3:15b)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in a pretty scary situation. What would you do? Let's see what they did. Well, they didn't make excuses or try to defend themselves and they didn't need another chance to obey the king. They were obeying the Most High God, so they told King Nebuchadnezzar, "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." (3:17-18)

Well if the king was mad before, he was furious now; he was so furious that he ordered the blazing furnace to "be heated seven times hotter than usual," and it was so hot it killed the soldiers who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in! (3: 19) Then, something amazing happened! King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in surprise! They had thrown three men into the furnace, but he saw four walking around in the flames! One even looked like a god! You know, it's not just amazing that there are now four in the fire; what is just as amazing is that they were walking around! What does that mean? It means that they were still alive! "Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: 'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!'" (3:26)

The three walked right out of the fire!

Everyone crowded around them and were amazed that the fire had not hurt them. “Not a hair on their head was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!” (3:27b) Then King Nebuchadnezzar did what Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had already been faithful to do; He praised the Most High God! And out of that worship he made a decree that no one could speak against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And the king who earlier thought no god could rescue them from his power declared, “There is no other god who can rescue like this!” (3:29b) And Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were promoted to even higher positions in Babylon.

Do you know that God has a plan for your life? He has since before you were born and it's a very good plan. Do you think a mad king, an angry friend, or even a sickness can stop God from bringing that plan to completion? None of those can do a thing to stop God because none of those things that happen in our lives surprise God! He is the Most High God and he is working out His plan in your life and will continue right up until the day Jesus returns to take us home, as long as you have a relationship with Him!

(Philippians 1:6) Do you? Are you His child? How can you know? Well have you ever realized that you are a sinner who needs help, who needs a Savior? All of us are sinners. That is why the Most High God sent His one and only Son to die on the cross. He wants you to be a part of the family! You might be asking, “How can that happen?” Well, “If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9) It's that simple because Jesus has already done all the work! Is that something you are ready to do today?

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Our memory verse says, “I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill His purpose for me.” (Psalm 57:2) We have just talked about God's plan and purpose for each of us. Did you know that when you know and believe what God's Word says, it makes you bold? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego defied the king because they knew the Most High God could save them and they were willing to die obeying God if He chose not to. They cried out to the Most High God. Do you know God's Word? Are you reading it, studying it, and memorizing it? Think of ways you can begin. It will help you when you need to cry out to God Most High!

ACTIVITIES

- Memory verse activity: Make Memory Verse Megaphones and print the verse on the megaphone.
- Discuss the height of King Nebuchadnezzar's statue from Daniel 3. The lesson mentions that it was higher than a bowling alley is long. Use the following comparisons.

two semi-trailers

1/2 of the Leaning Tower of Pisa

2 1/2 telephone poles

1/2 the Statue of Liberty

1/2 of Cinderella's Castle @ Disney

1/4 soccer pitch

5X giraffe

14 1/2 twin beds

1/4 football field

- Provide coloring pages of the story.
- Make a fiery furnace foldable. In the middle of a piece of paper print a picture of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace with the fourth person. Fold the sides of that picture over to meet in the middle. Decorate the cover of the foldable with flames. Open up to reveal the four in the fire.
- Make a hand spinner with the four on one side and fire on the other.
- Play musical chairs and talk about how music was a part of the story.
- For Further Study: Read Exodus 20:1-6 and Romans 1:18-23. Then read Joshua 24:14-15. What or who do you worship? Does that need to change today?



PSALM 57:2

I cry out to
God Most High,
to God
who will fulfill
His purpose for me.



WORD SEARCH

N	D	N	G	F	O	M	O	D	G	N	I	K	A	Nebuchadnezzar
F	I	E	R	Y	F	U	R	N	A	C	E	H	A	
O	A	B	A	S	Y	L	O	N	T	B	R	C	N	Statue
U	N	U	B	M	O	G	E	N	D	E	B	A	A	Shadrach
R	E	C	H	E	U	C	S	E	R	C	R	H	Z	
I	E	H	U	D	A	N	I	E	L	H	A	S	R	Meshach
N	E	A	C	G	R	A	Z	A	R	A	A	E	A	Abednego
F	B	D	O	D	H	G	I	H	T	S	O	M	S	
I	O	N	L	I	V	E	A	M	O	N	G	U	S	Fiery furnace
R	S	E	L	K	A	T	E	M	E	E	S	E	T	
E	V	Z	S	H	A	D	R	A	C	H	T	A	A	Four in Fire
T	L	Z	G	I	Z	A	E	Z	R	Z	A	G	T	
N	E	A	U	S	E	J	W	A	I	A	W	E	U	Rescue
I	N	R	V	Z	I	I	A	R	D	R	E	V	E	Most High God



WORD SEARCH

N D N G F O M O D G N I K A
 F I E R Y F U R N A C E H A
 O A B A S Y L O N T B R C N
 U N U B M O G E N D E B A A
 R E C H E U C S E R C R H Z
 I E H U D A N I E L H A S R
 N E A C G R A Z A R A A E A
 F B D O D H G I H T S O M S
 I O N L I V E A M O N G U S
 R S E L K A T E M E E S E T
 E V Z S H A D R A C H T A A
 T L Z G I Z A E Z R Z A G T
 N E A U S E J W A I A W E U
 I N R V Z I I A P D P E V E

Nebuchadnezzar

Statue

Shadrach

Meshach

Abednego

Fiery furnace

Four in Fire

Rescue

Most High God

