

**HEROES**

**OF THE**

**FAITH**

Ordinary Men and Women . . .  
Super Ordinary Power

**26**

**SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO  
SURVIVE THE FIERY FURNACE**

**HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012**

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*Taking church to the people*



# 26

## **SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO SURVIVE THE FIERY FURNACE**

### **Memory Verse:**

Brothers and sisters, God has shown you His mercy. So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to Him while you are still alive. Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God. When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping Him.  
(Romans 12:1 NIV)

### **Lesson Goals:**

- #1 - Understand how ordinary Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were
- #2 - Discover what faith led Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to do
- #3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

### **Audience:**

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

### **Scripture to Study:**

Daniel 3



# SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO SURVIVE THE FIERY FURNACE

Daniel 3

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our heroes:** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

**Their Heroic Feat:** Willing to die rather than worship anyone but God

Being willing to die rather than worship anyone but God may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

What do you remember about our last lesson? Who was carried away with Daniel to Babylon? (Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah) Do you remember that they chose to obey God, even in what they ate? Do you also remember that the Babylonians changed all of their names? Daniel's name, which means "God is my judge," was changed to Belfeshazzar, which means "Bel's prince." Bel was the god King Nebuchadnezzar worshipped. Hananiah's name means "God is gracious" or "loved by God." His new name, Shadrach, means "Illumined by Aku," the moon god. Mishael's name means, "Who is like God?," but Meshach means "Who is what Aku is?" And Azariah, whose name means "The Lord is my help" had his name changed to Abednego, which means "servant of Nebo," the Babylonian god of wisdom. The Babylonians not only changed their names, they also taught them a new language and writing. They were being prepared to serve a Babylonian king, rather than the one true God. Do you think it worked? Do you think name changes and new lessons could make these young men turn away from God? Let's see.

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar decided to make a gold statue. It was ninety feet high and nine feet wide. When it was completed, he called for all the leaders of the land. He was having a special dedication service for the statue and wanted them all there. A special announcement was made - a command. "When you hear the sound of the horns, flutes, lyres, zithers, harps, pipes, and all the other musical instruments, you must bow down and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up." (Daniel 3:5 NCV) Anyone not obeying the command would immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.

So, when the music was played, the people bowed down and worshipped the gold statue. Not all of them bowed down, though. Even though they knew the consequences (a blazing furnace) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego didn't bow down. They didn't worship the gold statue the king set up. The three men may have been called by names that suggested the worship of other gods, but they were true to the one, true God.

Someone went and told the king that the three Hebrews hadn't bowed down and the king became very angry. He called for the three men and offered them another opportunity, "In a moment you will again hear the sound of the horns, flutes, lyres, zithers, harps, pipes and all the other musical instruments. If you bow down and worship the statue I made, that will be good. But if you do not worship it, you will immediately be thrown into the blazing furnace.

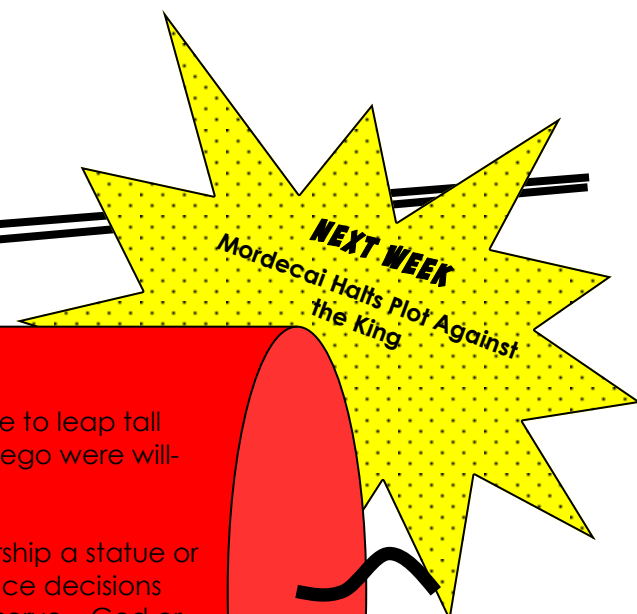
What god will be able to save you from my power then?" (Daniel 3:15 NCV) Shadrach, Meshach, nor Abednego needed another opportunity. They refused to bow before the statue and worship. Even more, they told the king, "If you throw us into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from the furnace. . . But even if God does not save us, we want you, O king, to know this: We will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up." (Daniel 3:17a, 18 NCV)

By this time, as you can imagine, King Nebuchadnezzar was furious! He was so furious he ordered the furnace to be heated to seven times its normal temperature. He also ordered some of the strongest soldiers to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the furnace. The furnace was so hot that the soldiers were killed as they threw the three men in. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were firmly tied as they fell into the furnace.

"Then King Nebuchadnezzar was so surprised that he jumped to his feet. He asked the men who advised him, "Didn't we tie up only three men and throw them into the fire?" (Daniel 3:24 NCV) He asked this because he saw four men in the fire, not dead, but walking around! Just like the angel who closed the lions' mouths when Daniel was in the lions' den, God sent His Angel to the fiery furnace.

King Nebuchadnezzar shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, come out! Servants of the Most High God, come here!" (Daniel 3:26b NCV) And Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego walked out of the blazing furnace. Everyone was amazed because "the fire had not harmed their bodies. Their hair was not burned, their robes were not burned, and they didn't even smell like smoke!" (Daniel 3:27b NCV)

Then King Nebuchadnezzar commanded that nothing be said against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego because God sent His Angel to save them from the fire. King Nebuchadnezzar said, "These three men trusted their God and refused to obey my command. They were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god other than their own." (Daniel 3:28b NCV)



### **YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!**

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Shadrach, Meshach **and** Abednego were willing to die rather than worship anyone but God.

You and I may never be called to bow down to and worship a statue or fear being thrown into a blazing, fiery furnace. We do face decisions every day, though, that cause us to decide who we will serve—God or something or someone else. Our memory verse will help us in those situations. It says, "Brothers and sisters, God has shown you his mercy. So I am asking you to **offer up your bodies to him while you are still alive.** Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God. When **you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping him.**" (Romans 12:1 NIV)

# PRE-SCHOOL!

## LESSON

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our heroes:** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

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Being willing to die rather than worship anyone but God may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, decided to make a gold statue. When it was completed, he called for all the leaders of the land. He was having a special dedication service for the statue and wanted them all there. He wanted everyone to bow down and worship the gold statue. Anyone who didn't would immediately be thrown into a fiery furnace. Many people bowed down and worshipped the gold statue. Not all of them bowed down, though. Even though they knew the consequences (a blazing furnace) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego didn't bow down. They didn't worship the gold statue the king set up.

Someone went and told the king that the three Hebrews hadn't bowed down and the king became very angry. He called for the three men and offered them another opportunity, Shadrach, Meshach, nor Abednego needed another opportunity. They refused to bow before the statue and worship. Even more, they told the king, "If you throw us into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from the furnace. . . But even if God does not save us, we want you, O king, to know this: We will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up." (Daniel 3:17a, 18 NCV)

By this time, King Nebuchadnezzar was furious! He was so furious he ordered the furnace to be heated to seven times hotter. He also ordered some of the strongest soldiers to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the furnace. The furnace was so hot that the soldiers were killed as they threw the three men in. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were firmly tied as they fell into the furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was so surprised that he jumped to his feet. They had thrown three men into the fire, but he saw four men in the fire, not dead, but walking around! Just like the angel who closed the lions' mouths when Daniel was in the lions' den, God sent His Angel to the fiery furnace.

King Nebuchadnezzar shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, come out! Servants of the Most High God, come here!" (Daniel 3:26b NCV) And Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego walked out of the blazing furnace. Everyone was amazed because "the fire had not harmed their bodies. Their hair was not burned, their robes were not burned, and they didn't even smell like smoke!" (Daniel 3:27b NCV) God had saved them!

# ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Make a paper doll chain. Write a word from the memory verse on each paper doll. Be sure to include the reference.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "Our God," "We Bow Down (Holy, Holy, Holy)," "Have Faith in God" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Make flash cards Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Also make flash cards of their Babylonian names. Mix them up and try to match each set of names that go with each person. If possible, look up the meanings of your students' names.
- Make a "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego Lapbook." This can be done with file folders and pockets. Be sure to include a picture of the story as well as the memory verse.
- **For more training:** Read Exodus 20:1-6 and Ezekiel 14:4-6. Discuss these verses in light of the lesson.
- **For more training:** Read Romans 1:18-32. Compare and contrast with Daniel 3.

Offer up your bodies  
to [God] while you  
are still alive. . . .

When you offer  
your bodies to God,  
you are worshiping  
Him.

Romans 12:1

Brothers and sisters,  
God has shown you  
His mercy.

So I am asking you to offer  
up your bodies to Him  
while you are still alive.

Your bodies  
are a holy sacrifice  
that is pleasing to God.

When you  
offer your bodies to God,  
you are worshiping Him.

Romans 12:1



**HEROES**

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Super Ordinary Power

# ***HERO IN TRAINING***

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego  
Survive the Fiery Furnace

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Arlington † Metroplex  
*Taking church to the people*

# HERO TRAINING!

**Scripture:** Daniel 3

**Memory verse:**

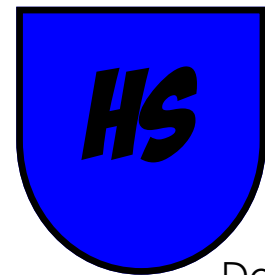
Brothers and sisters, God has shown you his mercy. So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to him while you are still alive. Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God. When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping him. (Romans 12:1 NIV)

**Our Heroes:** \_\_\_\_\_

What did our heroes do that was so heroic? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? \_\_\_\_\_



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have the power? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Daniel 6:16-23 and Daniel 3:22-27. What are some of the things the two stories have in common? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Unscramble the words below to complete the memory verse.

## Memory Verse:

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while you are still leavi.

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Romans 12:1

WORD

SEARCH!

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

- Hananiah

- Shadrach

- Mishael

- Meshach

- Azariah

- Abednego

- won't bow down

- fiery furnace

- God is able to save

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Unscramble the words below to complete the memory verse.

## Memory Verse:

Brothers and sisters, God has shown you His mercy.

So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to Him  
while you are still alive.

Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God.  
When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping Him.

Romans 12:1

# WORD

# SEARCH!

Answer Page

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

- Hananiah

- Shadrach

- Mishael

- Meshach

- Azariah

- Abednego

- won't bow down

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- God is able to save