

Old Testament

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Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Shadrach, Meshach,
Abednego

Daniel 3

Memory Verse

The one who trusts in him will
never be put to shame.
(Isaiah 28:16 NIRV)

Goals

1. Understand that Daniel's friends risked their lives.
2. Recognize that Daniel and his friends chose not to worship idols.
3. Learn that Daniel's friends were thrown into a fiery furnace.
4. Understand that God helped them.

Last week we learned that Daniel and his friends were captive in Babylon. They had been taken to the king's palace to serve Him. Daniel and his friends chose to be different, to obey God. They asked to eat different food for ten days. The king's helper was afraid, but he agreed to the test. God helped them.

Read the Bible

READ: Daniel 3:1-13-26 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin With Prayer

Have you ever had to stand up for what was right when others wanted to do something wrong? Today's story is about three friends that did just that! They risked their lives for what they knew was right. Their names were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They loved God and obeyed Him.

One day, the king made a gold statue that was about nine stories high. Then, he told all of his leaders, including Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, to bow down and worship the gold statue when the beautiful music played. The king also said that if someone did not worship the statue, they would be thrown into a fiery furnace. (Daniel 3:1-11)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't bow down to the statue. They worshipped God and would not worship a gold statue. The other leaders saw that they did not obey the king, so, they told the king what the three men did. (Daniel 3:12)

The king was furious! He couldn't believe that they would not bow to the statue. He had the three men brought into the palace. The king said, "Is it true that you did not bow down to my beautiful statue? I'll give you another chance. When the music plays again, if you bow down, nothing will happen to you. But if you don't, then we'll see if your God can save you!" (Daniel 3:13-15)

The three replied to the king, "King, we do not need to defend ourselves. The God whom we serve is able to save us, and He will rescue us from you. But, even if He doesn't, we want you to know that we will not serve your fake god statue." (Daniel 3:16-18)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego — Bible Facts

1. Daniel's friends were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
2. The king asked them to worship his idol.
3. Our God is able to deliver us, but even if He does not, we will not worship your idol.
4. God was with Daniel's friends in the fire and they were not burned.

The king was so angry that he ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than normal. He commanded the strongest men in the army to tie the three men up and throw them in. The fire was so hot that it killed the soldiers who threw the men into the fire! (Daniel 3:19-23)

Suddenly, the king rubbed his eyes. "What!" He said, "Didn't we throw three men into the fire! I can see four people! The three are not tied with rope and the fourth looks like the Son of God." The king went to the opening of the furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come here!" (Daniel 3:24-26)

So, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out. Do you know what? They didn't smell like smoke at all. Their clothes were not burned and their hair wasn't even singed. The king praised God. He now knew that God was the only true and real God. He gave them higher positions. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did a very courageous thing. They trusted God and they stood up for what was right. (Daniel 3:27-30)

Sometimes we have really tough choices to make, too. We must do what is right no matter what others think. We can remember that God promises to never leave us! He will be with us forever!

Review

1. **Who were Daniel's friends?** (Daniel's friends were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.)
2. **What did King Nebuchadnezzar ask them to do?** (The king asked them to worship his idol.)
3. **What did Daniel's friends say?** (Our God is able to deliver us, but even if He does not, we will not worship your idol.)
4. **What happened?** (God was with Daniel's friends in the fire and they were not burned.)

Do You Know Jesus?

Jesus died for us because He knew that there was no other way that we could go to Heaven. Jesus knew that He could save us by dying for our sins. The best part is that He arose three days later to show that God is more powerful than death. When we trust Jesus, we have a future in Heaven with Him! If you would like to know more, talk to your teacher. (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so we can know that He is with us.
3. Ask God to help you make the right tough choices.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to make right tough choices.

Application

Daniel's friends risked their lives. They chose not to worship idols. They told the king that God could save them, but even if He did not, they would not worship the king's idol. The king was very angry. Daniel's friends were thrown into a fiery furnace. They trusted God and God helped them. God wants us to trust Him, too. He will be with us like He was with Daniel and his friends.

Planning for Next Week

The Writing on the Wall — Daniel 5

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Daniel 1:13–26 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Bring a carpet runner or towel. Lay it on the floor. Cover the floor with tissue paper so that it will resemble fire. Tell the children to walk through the fire. Remind them that God walked with the three friends in the fire.

I want to tell you a story that happened a long time ago.

Three men loved God very, very much. Their names were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men were important people. They worked for the king.

One day the king decided to make a huge golden statue. It was very, very big. (Look way up into the sky) The king wanted everyone to bow down and worship the statue when beautiful music played. The king made a law that if someone did not bow down, they would be thrown into a fiery, hot furnace (like an oven).

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that the statue was not God and they would not bow down to the false statue. The other leaders saw that they did not obey the king. So, they told the king what the three men did.

The king was furious! He couldn't believe that they would not bow to the statue. He had the three men brought into the palace. The king said, "Is it true that you did not bow down to my beautiful statue? I'll give you another chance. When the music plays again, if you bow down, nothing will happen to you. But if you don't, then we'll see if your God can save you!"

The three replied to the king, "King, God whom we serve is able to save us, and He will rescue us from you. But, even if He doesn't, we want you to know that we will not serve your fake god statue."

The king was so angry that he ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than normal. He commanded the strongest men in the army to tie the three men up and throw them in.

Suddenly, the king rubbed his eyes. "What!" He said, "Didn't we throw three men into the fire! I can see four! The three are not tied with rope and the fourth looks like the Son of God." The king also noticed that the men were not on fire!

The king went to the opening of the furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego come out!"

So, they came out. Do you know what? They didn't smell like smoke at all. (make a sniffing sound) Their clothes were not burned and their hair wasn't even singed.

The king praised God. He now knew that God was the only true and real God.

God loves us too. He wants us to tell others about Him and worship Him. Let's sing a song to God right now. (Sing a worship song that the kids will know.)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so we can know that He is with us.
3. Ask God to help you make the right tough choices.

Memory verse for younger children

When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping him. Romans 12:1-2

Learning Activities

- Memory verse activity** — Bring pictures of a flame. Write the memory verse at the bottom.

- Test your memory** — Bring dolls to tell the story. Bring a doll to represent the king the statue, etc. Use the toys as you tell the story. Allow the children to retell the story.

- Taste activity** — Bring Hot Tamales for a snack.

Bring spicy chips if the children can eat spicy food.

- Think about it** — Daniel's friends were to be thrown into a fiery furnace. Talk about how sometimes making the right choice can have what appear to be negative consequences.

The king said he saw someone who looked like the Son of God in the fire with Daniel's friends. Talk about how God may not keep us from problems but He will walk with us.

The people were to bow down and worship the idol when they heard the music. Talk about how sounds and certain things remind us of traditions that we may need to leave behind.

- Touch activity** — Bring coloring pages of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Create a flame around them using different colored tissue paper.

Bring a carpet runner or towel. Lay it on the floor. Cover the floor with tissue paper so that it will resemble fire. Tell the children to walk through the fire. Remind them that God walked with the three friends in the fire.

- Run and play** — Play musical chairs.

Have a cake walk, but use cookies as the prize.

- Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to worship Him only.

- Sing** — Sing "Worship Him," "Holy, Holy, Holy," "I Will Praise You, O Lord," "Here I Am to Worship," or another song related to the story.

- Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handout with the Bible verse to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

**The one
who trusts
in Him
will never
be put
to shame.
Isaiah 28:16**

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

God was

with them

in the

fire.

Word Search

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

FRIENDS
KING
MESHACH
MUSIC

RIGHT
FURIOUS
SHADRACH
STATUE

RISK
BOW
ABEDNEGO
FURNACE

Word Search

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

FRIENDS
KING
MESHACH
MUSIC

RIGHT
FURIOUS
SHADRACH
STATUE

RISK
BOW
ABEDNEGO
FURNACE

Word Search

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

FRIENDS

RIGHT

KING

BOW

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STATUE

Word Search

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

FRIENDS

RIGHT

KING

BOW

MUSIC

STATUE

Anagram

NEO

UTTSSR

IHM

REENV

MAESH

SAAIHH

CEAMSHH

CRAADSHH

BAEEDONG

Anagram

ONE

TRUSTS

HIM

NEVER

SHAME

ISAIAH

MESHACH

SHADRACH

ABEDNEGO