



August 13, 2017

Dear Teacher,

This week we look at the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These young men were part of the exile from Judah and friends of Daniel (Chapter 1). These three men refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden idol. This story shows us that God is with his people regardless of where they are – in Jerusalem or in Babylon. God is God no matter where His people are living. This story also shows that God does not forget His people. God keeps His promise that He would be with His people. This story shows us that only one God is to be worshiped, not some golden idol! And last, this story shows us that God is all powerful. He is so powerful He can keep His servants from smelling like smoke even though they were thrown into a fiery furnace!

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Summer Recap: Fiery Furnace*

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

Scripture: Daniel 3

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 100 (Pages 235-237); The Beginner's Bible, Pages 248-253;
The Gospel Story Bible, Pages 146-147.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God alone is worthy of worship.
- Because of Judah's disobedience, God had the kingdom of Babylon conquer Judah.
- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, ordered treasures from God's temple and people taken to Babylon.
- King Nebuchadnezzar made a large golden statute of himself. He ordered everyone to bow and worship his statute when the music played.
- The young men of Judah – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego – believed that there was only one God, the God of Israel. They refused to obey Nebuchadnezzar's command.
- Nebuchadnezzar ordered the three men into the fiery furnace since they refused to worship the golden idol.
- There appeared a fourth person in the fire with the three men.
- The three men were untouched by the flames. Their clothes did not even smell like smoke.
- Nebuchadnezzar upon seeing this miracle made a law honoring the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

For the Sunday Schedule, please see "Sunday Schedule for Preschool" found in Handbook on the teacher's table.

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 166, 165, 164)

Craft: Fiery Furnace Foldable

Supplies: Cardstock furnace, 4 figures, tissue paper, glue, crayons/markers

Instructions:

1. Fold furnace along dotted lines so stone shows on the front
2. Glue top and bottom flaps where indicated
3. Color figures
4. Glue to inside of furnace
5. Stuff pieces of tissue into bottom of furnace for flames



Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Fiery Furnace Cup

Supplies: Styrofoam cup, 4 figures, popsicle stick, paper flames, crayons/markers

Instructions:

1. Color figures
2. Glue figures to popsicle stick
3. Glue or tape different color flames to outside of cup
4. Place end of stick into hole in bottom of cup to lower figures into flames



Story: *Summer Recap:* Fiery Furnace

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, today we learn about three men and a fire. How many of you have been near a camp fire? Or a fireplace? Fire is hot, right? And it burns, right? Well let's see what happens to these three men and the fire in our story today.
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Questions for Review

Scripture Memory (Nehemiah 1:5)

Catechism Questions (1-20)

Free Play

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- What is the name of three men in our story?
- What did King Nebuchadnezzar make?
- What did Nebuchadnezzar command everyone to do?
- What did the three men do?
- What did Nebuchadnezzar do to the three men?
- Who did Nebuchadnezzar see in the fiery furnace?
- How did Nebuchadnezzar respond after the three men came out of the fire?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about worshipping God?

Scripture Memory for Summer:

O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments. (Nehemiah 1:5)

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, today we learn about three men and a fire. How many of you have been near a camp fire? Or a fireplace? Fire is hot, right? And it burns, right? Well let's see what happens to these three men and the fire in our story today.

The Image of Gold (Verses 1-7)

King Nebuchadnezzar was a very powerful king. But he was also a selfish and sinful king. One day King Nebuchadnezzar decided that he wanted all the people in his kingdom to worship him. So, Nebuchadnezzar made a very big idol. The Bible says it was 90 feet high and 9 feet wide. That means it was taller than two regular houses (not mansions) put on top of one another. The Bible also says that the idol stood on a plain in Babylon. That way it could be seen from very far away. The last thing about this idol was it was really, really, really shiny because it was made of gold!

King Nebuchadnezzar sent messengers throughout his kingdom. He ordered all the governors, judges, rulers and advisors, pretty much all the important men, to come to the plain in Babylon to see his great idol. The king was planning a celebration to dedicate the idol. When they had all arrived, the king ordered his servant to shout, "This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations, and men of every language: As soon as you hear the sounds of the horn, the flute, the harp and all other kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship the idol immediately will be thrown into the fiery furnace." (The furnace was like a big oven where bricks were made. There was fire inside and it was very hot!)"

As soon as the instruments began playing, all the people who had gathered on the plain before the great idol of gold fell down and worshiped it – almost all the people – except for three. There on the plain before the idol was a large number of people bowing down, but there were three men who continued to stand-up – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Obeying God Rather Than Men (Verses 8-18)

Quickly some men went running to King Nebuchadnezzar: "O king, you have made a law that everyone who hears the sounds of the horn and instruments must fall down and worship the image of gold and whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into the fiery furnace. But there are some Jewish men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who are not paying attention to you, O king. They won't serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up on the plain."

The Bible says the king was furious! Nebuchadnezzar ordered that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be brought before him. "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?" the king asked. "Now this time when you hear the sound of the instruments, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not fall down and worship it, you will be thrown immediately into the fiery furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from me?" King Nebuchadnezzar was giving the three men another chance, another chance to worship the golden idol. King Nebuchadnezzar did not know the real God, the God that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego worshiped. If he had, he'd know for sure that their God could deliver them from the king's hand, the fiery furnace, or any other place that God would so choose. God can do anything!

But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew there was only one powerful God, and the Bible tell us the three men politely said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, if we are thrown into the fiery furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it and he will rescue us from you, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were sure of two very important things:

1. They knew that their God was mightier and stronger than any fiery furnace or anything else! If God wanted to, He would save them from the fire.
2. They knew what God's law said. It says in the Ten Commandments: "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God." Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew they were never allowed to worship any gods other than the true God. They would not break God's law.

Whether God chose to deliver them from the fire or not, they would honor the true God and they would honor Him only.

The Fiery Furnace (Verses 19-25)

The Bible says King Nebuchadnezzar was so mad with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego that he ordered the furnace be made seven times hotter than it had been. King Nebuchadnezzar then ordered his strongest soldiers to tie Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego up and throw them in the fiery furnace. The flames were so hot that even the strong soldiers were burned and fell down dead! The king watched to see what would happen. As he looked into the furnace, the Bible says he jumped to his feet in surprise and said, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" "Certainly, king, there were only three." "Look," the king called out, "I see four men walking around in the fire, they are not tied up anymore and they are not hurt either! And the fourth man, well, he looks like the son of the gods." King Nebuchadnezzar ran to the opening of the fiery furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire and all the people who had gathered on the plain to worship the golden idol came toward them and crowded around. The people could see that the fire had not harmed their bodies. Their hair wasn't even burned; their clothes were not burned and they did not even smell like fire.

Response (Verses 26-30)

Then King Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and disobeyed my command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god but their own God. Now I'm making a new law that no people, or nation can say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego."

God chose to show his power that day when he saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fiery furnace. God was even with the three men in the furnace too. And you know what? God is with us too! He has promised to be with us always. In very scary times like this story and today – as we sit here hearing His word!