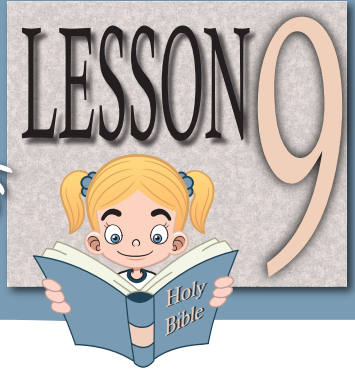


Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand Up for God

Daniel 3



Old Testament 8
Part 2: Exile and Post-Exile

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 8 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Daniel 3; Psalm 68:19-20

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Our God...will deliver us" (Daniel 3:17b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "O king, ...we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up" (Daniel 3:18b).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["The Fiery Furnace"](#)
- ["Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego"](#)
- ["Someone's in the Fiery Furnace"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

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- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
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- ["Maps of Babylonian and Persian Empires in Daniel's Time"](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- Fiery Furnace images: <http://www.christart.com/clipart/image/fiery-furnace>; <http://www.goodsalt.com>



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must be willing to stand up for God even when it is not popular.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

What are the names of the four young men we learned about last week? What choices did they make that pleased God? What do you think you would do if a king told you to do something that was wrong? In today's lesson, we will learn how Daniel's three friends refused to worship an idol King Nebuchadnezzar commanded them to worship. Let's see what happens!

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Has anyone ever made fun of you because you believe in God, or because you go to church and choose to do what's right? Many times, in both the Old and New Testaments, God's followers were not only made fun of. Many times they were even killed. Today, we're going to talk about Daniel's three friends being willing to do what was right, even when their lives were threatened.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

HISTORICAL NOTE: These events probably took place around 584 B.C., about 20 years after Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego, and Daniel were taken to Babylon as slaves. Ezekiel was also taken captive in the last and largest deportation; he was chosen by God to be a prophet among his fellow captives in Babylon.

When Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judah, he took away their soldiers (i.e., the Jews' way of fighting back), their leaders, and all the symbols of their religion (stealing the objects in the Temple and, later, destroying the Temple itself). The golden image that Nebuchadnezzar had built to honor himself was no doubt made from the gold he had taken from Judah and other nations he had conquered.

1. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had a giant statue made of gold that was about 90 feet tall and nine feet wide. He had it set up in a plain where a multitude of people could come and worship before it. All the officials of the Babylonian Empire were called to worship this golden statue. They were ordered to bow down to the statue when they heard certain musical instruments play.
2. If anyone refused to fall down and worship the statue, the king ordered that person to be thrown into a fiery furnace. Of the crowd gathered that day, only three men refused to bow down. Some of his officials told Nebuchadnezzar, "There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon [Daniel 2:49], Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men...do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up" (Daniel 3:12).



3. Even though he had appointed these men, along with Daniel, to positions of authority in his government and had previously said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets” (Daniel 2:47), Nebuchadnezzar was very angry that these three Jews would not bow down to the idol he had made. [He was quick to anger, as noted in Daniel 2:12 and 3:13,19. His question, “and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?” is reminiscent of Pharaoh’s rhetorical question: “Who is Jehovah that I should obey Him?”]
4. The king’s questions in Daniel 3:14,15 indicate that he knew why these three men did not bow down to his image. Their allegiance was promised to someone else—the one and only God whom the great king of Babylon did not know or fear.
5. Nebuchadnezzar said that he would give them another chance to obey his command, warning them that no god could deliver them from his hands. They answered him, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you [i.e., defend ourselves] in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king” (vss. 16-17). Though they knew God was able to save them, they knew that He might choose not to save them for His own reasons. Regardless of God’s decision, however, they confidently and boldly stated to the king, “Let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up” (vs. 18). The three men’s unshakable confidence and faith in Jehovah God (Daniel 3:17-18) only made the king angrier. [Similar to Peter and John’s defiant statement to Jewish leaders in Acts 4:19,20,29]
6. The king ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than it was normally. Think about how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego had to stand and watch the wood put into the oven until it became so hot that it killed anyone who approached it. The three men were securely tied up and thrown into the furnace, but there were no cries of agony or cries for help. Instead, the king quickly stood up and looked into the furnace where he saw three unbound men walking among the flames. Not only that, but another figure, who the king said was “like a son of the gods” was also in the furnace. Completely astounded, the king, himself, approached the hot furnace and told the men to come out, calling them “servants of the Most High God.”

NOTE: The text does not make it clear who was sent by God to rescue Daniel’s friends. The king sees someone that he concludes is a “son of the gods” (“gods” is a translation of the Hebrew word *elohim*, which can refer to God or to gods). Some translations say “the Son of God,” insisting that it was Jesus incarnate Who saved the boys. However, the underlying Hebrew does not demand that translation (e.g., “the” is not in the Hebrew and the phrase “a son of god/the gods” is a semitism which refers to angelic beings elsewhere—Job 1:6; 38:7), and since Nebuchadnezzar had not believed in God to that point (3:15), it is unlikely to conclude that he would have even known about Jesus, much less believed the savior of the boys was Jesus. Further, Nebuchadnezzar would not have known what the Son of God would have looked like to describe the being that way. Rather, it is likely that what he saw was an angelic being. As a polytheist, when thinking about angels, instead of calling them “sons of God,” he likely would have thought of them as “sons of gods.” In verse 28, Nebuchadnezzar says the boys’ God “sent His angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him,” (1) indicating that he meant “angel” by “a son of the gods,” and (2) indicating that he knew it was their God (singular) responsible for their salvation, possibly indicating that he had a better understanding of what happened by that point. Likely, the boys had explained who had delivered them after exiting the furnace.





RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Guardian Angels](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion of angels in the Bible, including the angel God sent to rescue Shadrach, Meshack, and Abed-nego.

7. Note verse 27: The king was astounded that the three were completely untouched by the fire. The king had no power at all against Almighty God! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego knew that even if they were to die, God would reward them and care for them. They knew they could believe God’s promises to care for them and did their part by choosing to show their love for God instead of an idol.
8. If you are ever in a crowd where everyone else makes a bad choice, that doesn’t mean that you have to follow their example. Instead, you must choose to be different and hope they will follow your example. There have been many times that people who obeyed God have suffered for their faith; they were not always protected from physical harm. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego knew this and knew that they would serve God no matter what might happen to them. We must do the same.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Daniel and Friends Refuse Idols Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Make red and orange Jello® in shallow pans; when set, cut into “flames.” Use canned whipped cream to spray on the flames to “put the fire out.”
- Act out the story. Tape orange, red, and yellow crepe streamers to the edges of a box fan. Turn on the fan to make the “flames” move. Ask some of the children to make sizzling noises and some to crush aluminum foil for the crackling sound of flames. Let some of the children dress up like the three Jewish men and the king.
- Make copies of a coloring sheet of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace for each child. Write the memory verse on the paper. Let the children color their sheets, then glue pieces of red, yellow, and orange tissue paper onto the paper to represent flames.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Memory Verse review: Write each word of the memory verse on an index card. Shuffle the cards and have children work in pairs or groups to put the cards in the correct order. Make as many sets as you have groups. (“[Memory Verse Cards](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Memory Game: Write key words from this and last week’s lessons on index cards or pieces of card stock (each word written on two different cards). Shuffle the cards and turn them face down on the floor. Have the children take turns turning over pairs of cards. If a match is not found, turn the cards face down in the same place they were. If a match is found, the child keeps the match and tells the importance of that word. (You can make two sets and divide the class into two groups to play.)
- Sword Drill: Make sure each child has a Bible. Call out scriptures that are relevant for this lesson, one at a time, for children to look up. The first one to find the scripture gets to read it out loud. Suggestion: for this lesson, use verses on idols/idol worship. Example verses:

Exodus 20:3-5; Exodus 32:7-10; Joshua 24:14; 1 Samuel 7:3-4; 1 Kings 11:4; 2 Kings 17:16,18; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 1 Corinthians 10:14; 1 John 5:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Numbers 25:3

- [“Daniel and Friends Refuse Idols Matching Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Memory Verse review: Write each word of the memory verse on an index card. Shuffle the cards and have children work in pairs or groups to put the cards in the correct order. Make as many sets as you have groups. ([“Memory Verse Cards”](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Memory Game: Write key words from this and last week’s lessons on index cards or pieces of card stock (each word written on two different cards). Shuffle the cards and turn them face down on the floor. Have the children take turns turning over pairs of cards. If a match is not found, turn the cards face down in the same place they were. If a match is found, the child keeps the match and tells the importance of that word. (You can make two sets and divide the class into two groups to play.)
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- [“Daniel and Friends Refuse Idols Matching Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - Daniel 3-4
 - *Elijah and the Great Prophets*, by Joy Melissa Jensen, Contemporary Bible Series, Scandinavia Publishing (DISCLAIMERS: p. 20—the text says a “great fish,” not a “whale”; p. 36—skip the phrase “like the one in his dream”; p. 49—skip the last two sentences; p. 61—change the first sentence of the second paragraph to “So a new law was written that protected the Jews.”)
 - *King Nebuchadnezzar’s Golden Statue*, by Penny Frank, The Lion Story Bible (DISCLAIMER: mark out the first sentence of the second paragraph on p. 9)
 - *The Fiery Furnace*, by Melinda Kay Busch, Arch Books (DISCLAIMER: skip the note to the parents)

SONGS:

“THE FIERY FURNACE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook
(Tune: “London Bridge”)

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Abednego, Abednego,
Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, in the fiery furnace.

No, they did not burn at all, burn at all, burn at all.
No, they did not burn at all; our God saved them.

“SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”)

(Let each of the children pretend to be one of the three men.)

Class: Shadrach, Shadrach, Shadrach, Shadrach,
Where are you? Where are you?

Shadrach: In the fiery furnace, in the fiery furnace,
Here I am, here I am.

Class: Shadrach, Shadrach, Shadrach, Shadrach,
Who saved you? Who saved you?

Shadrach: God, up in heaven, God, up in heaven,
He saved me, He saved me.

(REPEAT verses with names of other characters)

“SOMEONE’S IN THE FIERY FURNACE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(from Tip Toe Through the Bible with Tunes)

(Tune: “Someone’s in the Kitchen with Dinah”)

Someone’s in the fiery furnace,
Someone’s in the fiery furnace I see,
Thrown into the white-hot furnace,
Do I see more than three?

Four in the fiery furnace,
Four men in the furnace I see,
With the men in the furnace
Is God protecting three?

CHORUS:

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego,
Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego,
Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego,
There’s one more in the glow.

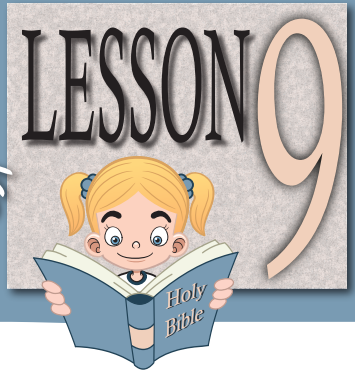
*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand Up for God

Daniel 3



Old Testament 8
Part 2: Exile and Post-Exile

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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MEMORY WORK:

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must be willing to stand up for God even when it is not popular.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 8 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 8 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [O.T. 8 Review Questions](#) for example questions.)
2. Even though King Nebuchadnezzar praised the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3:27-28, he continued to insist that everyone show him respect and honor. He did not give up his own pride.
3. In Daniel 4, we read that he had another disturbing dream, and Daniel was called to interpret it. Daniel was very disturbed by the dream and encouraged the king to change his life (Daniel 4:27). But 12 months later, Nebuchadnezzar walked on the roof of his palace and claimed all the success of his kingdom as his own. Immediately, he lost his mind and became like an animal, just as the dream had predicted.
4. While there is some dispute about the meaning of “seven times” (4:16,23,25,32), it is very possible that the most powerful king in the world at that time lived in the fields like an animal for seven years! What was the solution—the way for him to return to his life as king? He had to repent of his great pride.
5. Discuss the meaning of pride and the dangers of pride with the kids.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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