

# **God Protects Daniel's Friends**

Daniel 3

# **LESSON GOAL**

Students will make worshiping the Lord their first priority.

#### **BIBLE TRUTHS**

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego chose to obey God rather than the king.
- The king ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego to be thrown into the fiery furnace.
- God protected the three men from the fiery flames.
- The king praised God for delivering the three men.

### **KEY VERSE**

"Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!'" (Daniel 3:28).

## **APPLICATION**

- Be willing to suffer when you worship the Lord.
- Testify to God's greatness by living an obedient life.
- Keep yourself from idols.

### **NEXT WEEK**

God Humbles Nebuchadnezzar Read Daniel 4.





Craft



Finger Play



**Memory Verse** 



**Object Lesson** 



Game



**Visual Aid** 



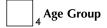
Center



Activity



Q & A



# **Teacher Planning Sheet**

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

# PREPARE

	<b>-</b>
	Personal Application
	As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to
	<u> </u>
	Three ways students need to apply this passage are
	<u> </u>
-t-vi-l-	POINT
aterials	Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.
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	_
	PROCLAIM
	Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.
	Presentation Ideas
	_
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	Praise/Music Ideas
	_   •
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	PRACTICE
	<u> </u>
	- Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.
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# PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul....You shall teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

# Bible Background

Daniel and his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego found themselves in a difficult situation while in Babylon. The Lord had used Daniel to reveal to King Nebuchadnezzar His plan for human history (Dan. 2). Although God's kingdom one day would fill the earth and last forever (2:44), a series of Gentile nations would have dominion over Israel until then. While under Gentile control, Israel was faced with the decision of how they would live as God's people in an environment hostile to God. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego had already chosen to please God and risk punishment when they chose not to eat the king's food (Dan. 1). In Daniel 3, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego would face an even more intense challenge when they had to choose between worshiping an idol and being thrown into a fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were willing to die rather than worship a false god. Everyone who desires to please God likewise must be committed to worshiping Him alone, regardless of the cost.

#### Nebuchadnezzar Commands Idol Worship (Dan. 3:1-7)

Nebuchadnezzar had been amazed at the ability of Daniel's God to reveal his dream and its meaning, but he did not respond by worshiping God. Nebuchadnezzar should have been humbled by the fact that his kingdom was under God's control. Instead, he usurped God's authority and commanded all his officials to worship an image that he set up. Perhaps inspired by the statue he had seen in his dream, Nebuchadnezzar built a 90-foot-tall image, covered the entire image in gold, and set it in the midst of a plain (Dan. 3:1). The king commanded his government officials to stand before the image and join in unified worship by falling before the idol when they heard "the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery" (3:5). Officials from a variety of "peoples, nations, and languages" (3:4) were commanded to demonstrate their loyalty and submission by worshiping as Nebuchadnezzar had instructed. Those who disobeyed would "be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace" (3:6). The furnace most likely had been used in the construction of the image. Furnaces had an opening on top (in which to pour the ore to be smelted), as well as an opening on the side (in which to place charcoal and wood for fuel). The furnace, with flames and smoke shooting out, provided whatever motivation the assembled officials needed. In unity, "all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up" (3:7).

#### Nebuchadnezzar Threatens Daniel's Friends (Daniel 3:8–18)

While the reader is anxious to hear how Daniel and his friends responded to the command, the narrator only slowly reveals what the Jews did (and never even mentions Daniel, who possibly was excluded from accusation because of his high position or was away governing affairs in Babylon). Some of the magicians

("Chaldeans") came to the king and announced that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego had not bowed down before the idol. They said to the king, "These men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up" (3:12). The magicians understood that King Nebuchadnezzar would take disobedience as a personal insult to his greatness. Perhaps jealous of the positions these young Jews held, the magicians pitted the faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego against the pride of Nebuchadnezzar.

Nebuchadnezzar could not believe that anyone would be so bold and foolish as to disobey him. In "rage and fury" (3:13), he commanded Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego to come before him and threatened that if they did not worship the image, they would be thrown into the furnace. Nebuchadnezzar finished his tirade by asking, "And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" (3:15). Even Nebuchadnezzar's previous encounter with the God of Israel (Dan. 2) did not lead him to believe that God was more powerful than him. Nebuchadnezzar had exalted himself above the gods of the nations, and the gods of every other nation had yielded to Nebuchadnezzar's demands. Surely the God of the Jews would not be able to stand against the mighty Nebuchadnezzar either!

Although able to smell the smoke and see the flames from the furnace, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego expressed unwavering confidence in God. They were so unashamed of God that they did not even apologize for their faith or make an excuse for their disobedience (3:16). They were confident that God could and would deliver them from the fiery furnace (3:17). Their faith was not just empty hope that everything would work out in the end. They knew and served God (3:17). Their past obedience to Him had grown their present confidence in Him. Nebuchadnezzar had boasted in the power of his hand, but to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, being in the king's hand was nothing compared to being in God's hand. Ultimately, whether or not God saved them, their faith would not be shaken. They answered Nebuchadnezzar, "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" (3:18). Even if God chose to glorify His name by the death of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, they would worship only Him.

#### Nebuchadnezzar Punishes Daniel's Friends (Dan. 3:19–25)

Nebuchadnezzar proceeded with his threatened punishment but was surprised by the outcome. Even angrier than before, Nebuchadnezzar commanded that the furnace be made as hot as possible (Dan. 3:19). The temperature was so intense that the mighty soldiers who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego into the furnace were killed by the heat (3:22). Nebuchadnezzar was astonished when, instead of seeing the three bound men quickly consumed, he saw "four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire" (3:25). Although the furnace was hot enough to kill those near it, the men were not hurt. Looking at the fourth man, Nebuchadnezzar could only say, "The form of the fourth is like the Son of God" (literally "a son of the gods"; 3:25). Pagan Nebuchadnezzar was able to ascribe some kind of deity to the fourth man. Although called an "Angel" by Nebuchadnezzar in verse 28, the fourth man most likely was pre-incarnate Christ. (See Genesis 18:1–2, 10–13, where God came to Abraham in the form of a man.) God not only had rescued His saints from the fire, but He also had visited them, no doubt to comfort and encourage them.

#### Nebuchadnezzar Praises God (Dan. 3:26-30)

Because of what God had done for His servants, Nebuchadnezzar appreciated that the God of the Jews is God Most High. He identified Shadrach, Meshach, and

Abed-Nego as "servants of the Most High God" and called for them to come out of the fire (Dan. 3:26). When they came out, all the officials could see that the fire had not affected them: "The hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them" (3:27). Nebuchadnezzar then praised God because He had delivered His servants (3:28). Before God rescued His servants, their devotion had seemed empty to Nebuchadnezzar. But when he saw the power of God, Nebuchadnezzar praised the men for ignoring his word, yielding their bodies to be burned, and not worshiping any god except their God (3:28). Though not embracing God Most High as his own God, Nebuchadnezzar learned to respect God and commanded that all his subjects also respect Him. He even proclaimed that anyone who spoke "anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego" would be destroyed "because there is no other God who can deliver like this" (3:29). The men's commitment to worship and God's power to rescue worked together to convince Nebuchadnezzar that the God of Israel was unlike the gods of the nations.

#### **Conclusion**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego served the same God believers serve today. God is unchanging, and as Nebuchadnezzar learned, there is no other God who mercifully works on behalf of His people. Although God is unchanging and always worthy of worship, believers are not always faithful in their worship of Him. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were willing to die rather than worship anything or anyone besides God. They had counted the cost and were committed to worship Him, whether or not He chose to deliver them. Many believers today are not as faithful. While balking at the idea of bowing to an idol, they quickly submit to other idols—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. While being quick to promise that they would die rather than forsake Christ, they choose not to die to themselves daily and do not place Christ first in their affections. But God is still a God who delivers. He does not let His children be tempted beyond what they can bear, and He will provide a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). The Lord delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego as they faithfully followed Him, and He will do the same for every saint who takes up his cross daily and follows Him.

# **POINT** TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



#### **Review Questions**

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

Why did the king call all his wise men?

The king had a dream, and he wanted the wise men to tell him what the dream was before telling him what it meant.

Could any of the king's wise men tell the king what his dream was about? No. None of them could tell him about the dream.

What did the king do because no one could tell him his dream? He said that all the wise men would be killed.

What did Daniel do when he heard the news of the death sentence? Daniel asked the king for some time before the killing of all the wise men. Daniel and his friends prayed, asking God to have mercy and reveal the dream so that they would not die.

How did God answer Daniel? God revealed the king's dream to Daniel.

#### What did Daniel tell the king?

Daniel said that the God of heaven revealed the dream and its meaning. Daniel told the two parts of the dream to the king. After telling the dream, Daniel explained what the dream meant.

#### What did the king's dream mean?

Daniel said that God had given Nebuchadnezzar his kingdom, power, strength, and glory. He explained what the statue meant and said that each of the levels in the statue represented a group that would come to power after Babylon.



#### **Nebuchadnezzar Says**

In ancient times, a king's instructions were to be carefully obeyed. By not bowing down to the golden statue, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego showed that they were attentive to God's Word and had a bold confidence in God. Introduce the students to the lesson by playing a game of "Simon Says." In this case though, it's "Nebuchadnezzar Says," and there are certain actions that the students must not do, even if Nebuchadnezzar says to do them. Show them what actions they are not to do before starting the game. They are going to have to pay careful attention to your instructions. In the same way, Shadrach and his friends had to pay careful attention to God's Word so that they would not disobey God even when the king told them to.



#### **But I Did Right!**

Ask the students for some examples of wrong things they have done and been punished for. Have they ever done something good and been punished for it? In today's lesson we learn about three of Daniel's friends who did something right were punished for it.



#### What's That Smoky Smell?

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were thrown into the fire, they came out not smelling like smoke. Blindfold some students and ask them what various substances smell like. Bring in a variety of things that they would recognize. In one of the containers have liquid smoke. It has a smoky aroma. This is what something in or near a fire should smell like. Then bring out an empty canister. Let the students sniff this. There is no smell. God protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego so much so that there was not even a smell of smoke on the men.



#### **Guess Who's in the Furnace?**

Tell the students that when Meshach, Shadrach, and Abed-Nego were thrown into the fiery furnace, Nebuchadnezzar saw another person in the fire with them. Play a game called "Guess Who's in the Furnace?" Have all the students stand up, spread out, and close their eyes. Quietly tap one of the students on the shoulder and have him come out with you (without touching the other students). He can wait outside the door with a teacher. Then, have the rest of the children rearrange themselves. When the children open their eyes again, have them look around and try to guess the child who is missing. The child who guesses correctly wins. When the game has been played a few times, instruct the children to listen to today's lesson and see if they can tell who the fourth person in the furnace was.



#### When the Music Plays

Tell the students that in today's lesson, the people had to do something when music was played. Play a game where when music is played, the students have to do something (jump, dance, hit balloons, etc.). When the music stops, the students should stop. Explain that in today's lesson when music was played, the people of the kingdom were to bow down and worship an idol. Ask the students whether it is okay to do that. In today's lesson, we will find out what Daniel's friends did when the music began to play.

# PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

#### Bible Lesson

King Nebuchadnezzar made an idol for all the people of the land to worship. God had just demonstrated His greatness to the king by telling him about his dream through Daniel. But even though Nebuchadnezzar had seen that the God of Daniel was the greatest of all gods, he still chose to make his own god by creating an idol. He wanted to make his idol the best idol ever, so he had it made of gold. The idol was huge! It was 90 feet tall. That is almost as tall as some skyscrapers.

When the workers had finished building the idol, King Nebuchadnezzar invited all the important officials from his kingdom to come to a special meeting, where he would show them the idol. Governors, judges, bankers, and many other officials traveled to Babylon from all over the kingdom to come see the idol.

When they saw the idol, a messenger yelled out, "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that at the time you hear the sound of the...music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up, and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace" (Dan. 3:4–6). The king had made it against the law not to worship the idol. He commanded that anyone who disobeyed his law would be killed.

You probably would guess that everybody obeyed the king and bowed down to worship the big, golden idol. Nobody would want to be thrown into a fiery

furnace and be burned to death. Almost everyone did bow down. However, some of the Chaldeans came to King Nebuchadnezzar and told him that there were a few people who were not worshiping the idol. They said to the king, "There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up" (Dan. 3:12). The king knew Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He had given them powerful positions in his government because Daniel had asked him to. King Nebuchadnezzar was very angry with them! He had them brought before him, and he said, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? Now if you are ready at the time you hear the...music, and you fall down and worship the image I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" (Dan. 3:14–15). The king had demanded that they worship the idol. He wanted them to realize that he was serious about his command and that they would die if they did not obey him.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego knew better. They were willing to accept the punishment of the king. They knew that the king was wrong about the one true God, and they decided to worship God by obeying Him. Their God could save them if they were thrown into the fire. They said to the king, "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. But if not, 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" (Dan. 3:17–18). King Nebuchadnezzar was furious! He did not care that these were Daniel's friends or that they held a high position in his kingdom. He ordered the furnace to be made much hotter than it already was, so there would be no question that it would kill them. He had the strongest soldiers of his army tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego and throw them into the blazing fire. The fire in the furnace was so hot that the soldiers who threw them into the furnace died from the heat! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego fell into the fiery furnace while the king and his men watched.

Suddenly, King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and said, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" (Dan. 3:26). They all said yes, they had thrown three men into the fire.

"Look!" answered the king, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God" (Dan. 3:25). Then he shouted into the furnace, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here" (Dan. 3:28). Without any burns, the three men walked right out of the furnace. All the king's counselors gathered around them and saw that the fire had not hurt them at all. Their clothes looked just as they had before going in. They did not even smell like a fire! King Nebuchadnezzar was so overwhelmed by the power of the one true God and how He had miraculously protected His servants that he cried out in worship to God. He proclaimed, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this" (Dan. 3:28–29). The king rewarded the three men for their faithfulness to God and gave them an even higher position in his kingdom. King Nebuchadnezzar saw no

other choice but to worship God when he saw God's greatness and power demonstrated. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego saw no choice but to be faithful to and worship God, even when they knew that worshiping God might cost them their lives. God saved them from physical death because they were faithful and obedient to Him. He will likewise give eternal life to every person who faithfully follows Him.



#### **Lesson Questions**

What did King Nebuchadnezzar demand all the people to do? He demanded that all the people worship a gold image.

Who disobeyed his command? *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.* 

What did the king do to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego? *He had them thrown into a fiery furnace.* 

Who protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego? God protected the three men. He sent His angel into the furnace with them and stopped the fire from burning them.

What did the king do when he saw how God had protected the three men? The king praised God for protecting the three men.

### **Presentation Ideas**



#### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



#### **Betty Lukens Flannelgraph**

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



#### **Being Obedient Is Hard Work**

Begin the lesson by asking the students to perform a task that is easy at first but then gets more and more difficult (for example, holding your arms out straight in front of your body, sitting still with your finger on your lips, etc.). Begin telling the story, and have the students fold their arms when they fail to obey your instructions. By midway through the lesson, there should be only a few students who are still obeying. Why were the others not able to obey? Following an instruction may be easy at first, but it can become very difficult over time, especially when the people around you no longer are trying to obey. Tell the students the rest of the story, explaining that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego's decision not to bow down to the idol was difficult; it could have cost them their lives. As everyone else in Babylon bowed down, it must have been difficult for these three believers to do what was right and trust God. This provides a good opportunity to explain the gospel to the students. Tell them that we can never fully obey God; it becomes too difficult. That is why we need Jesus to forgive our sins and give us the ability to obey.



#### What Was It Like?

During the lesson, help the students to understand what it might have been like to

be there with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. If you were to ask the students whether they would bow down to a golden idol, they probably would say no. But it is likely that if they had been in that situation, it would be much harder to say no. There were many people there who were bowing down and obeying. It may have been easy for someone to want to do what everyone else was doing. In addition, their lives were threatened if they disobeyed. Explain that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego had great faith in God. They trusted in His sovereign hand rather than obeying the king's sinful order.



#### **Building a Tall Statue**

Materials: butcher paper, standalone of Nebuchadnezzar's idol copied on an overhead transparency, markers

Directions: Before the lesson, place a large piece of butcher paper on the wall, reaching from floor to ceiling. Project the idol standalone onto the paper, and trace it with marker. Then take it down and give it to the students to decorate. During the lesson time, ask the students to consider how they decorated the idol. Is it like or unlike the statue that Nebuchadnezzar built? Help them to understand both their drawing and Nebuchadnezzar's idol are manmade; neither deserves to be worshiped!

# Praise and Worship

He Reigns Holy, Holy, Holy Is The Lord Of Hosts Most Holy One



#### The Fiery Furnace

The furnace flames were blazing high, (Slowly raise hands while wiggling fingers like fire.)

And Daniel's friends were doomed to die, (Clasp hands; lower head.)

For they refused to bow and praise (Shake head no; bow down.)

The idol that the king had raised. (Raise hand to indicate height of a tall statue.)

"O king," they said, "We trust our God, (Place hand over heart; point up.)

For He can save—and should He not, (Nod; hold up index finger.)

Your gods we still will never serve." (Cross arms; shake head.)

The king was angry at their words. (Clench fists; make angry face.)

Into the furnace they were thrown, (Pretend to throw something heavy.)

But then God made His power known. (Flex biceps.)

Because they trusted in His name, (*Place hand over heart.*)

His Angel saved them from the flames! (Pretend to pick something up and put it in a different spot; wipe forehead in relief.)

# **PRACTICE** THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



#### "First-Place Ribbon"

Materials: copies of the "First-Place Ribbon" craft page on blue paper, scissors, glue, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page. Have the students cut out the ribbon pieces and then assemble the ribbon by gluing together the circles and strips. They should glue the heart to the center of the circle. During craft time, explain that a blue ribbon represents a first-place award. Talk about who or what takes first place in the students' hearts—whom or what they love and serve most. Have them circle "God" and cross out "self" and "idols." Talk about what it means to have God in first place and what it means when we put idols or ourselves first. Encourage the students to take their ribbons home to discuss them with their parents.



#### **Fire Painting**

Materials: uncoated paper plates, food coloring (red, orange, and yellow or brown), water bottle, crayons

Directions: Sprinkle drops of food coloring onto a paper plate. Then spray the plate with water droplets. The food coloring will run and smear, making a pattern that resembles fire. Allow the plate to dry. As it does, the students can color pictures of Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego, and a fourth figure in the fire. Have them cut the furnace out and glue it onto the "fire." It should look as though the men are standing in the midst of the flames. Talk about why Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were thrown into the fire. They would not bow down to the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had built. And the Most High God had a plan to save them.



#### **Into the Fiery Furnace**

Materials: two paper plates per student, red and yellow crepe paper or tissue paper, copies of the "Into the Fiery Furnace" craft page, crayons, stapler, glue, three wooden craft sticks per student, scissors

Directions: Before class, cut about an inch off the top of the paper plates. Place two plates together, and staple around the edges to create a pocket. (The cut-off

portion will be the pocket opening.) During class, give each student a paper-plate pocket and a copy of the craft page. Direct the students to color the pictures and cut them out. They should then glue the coloring sheet to one side of a paper plate, aligned so that the cut-off portion of the plate is at the top. The heads of Daniel's friends should be glued to the ends of the craft sticks. The tissue paper and craft sticks can be put inside the paper plate and glued. It should appear as though the three men are standing in the flames. Allow time for the glue to dry.

#### **Coloring Pages**

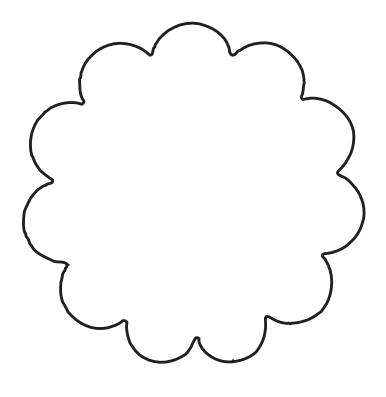
Give each student a copy of the coloring pages at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



#### **MEMORY VERSE**

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said..., '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'" (Daniel 3:16a, 17b).

# First-Place Ribbon



Who Should Have First Place?

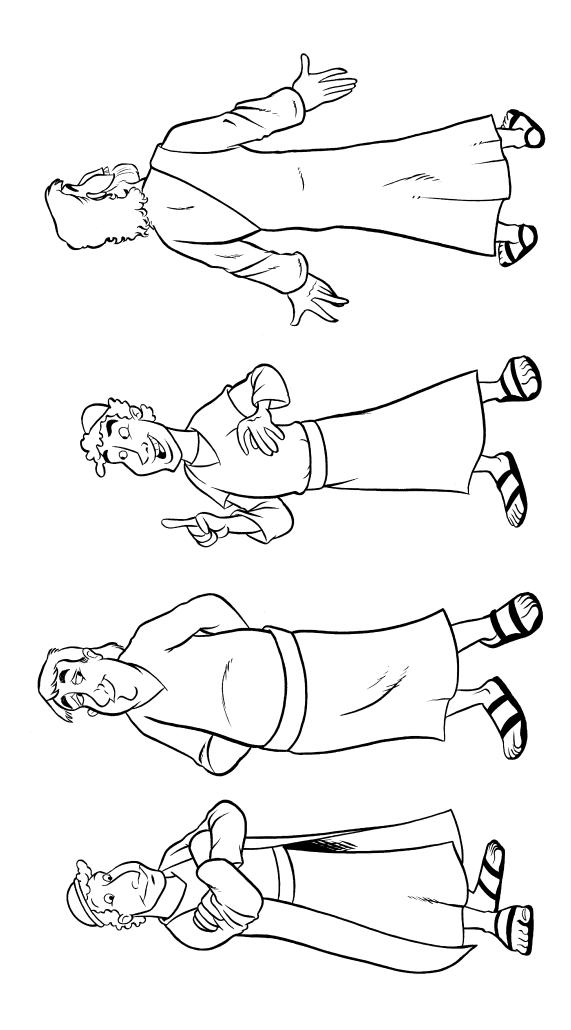
God self idols

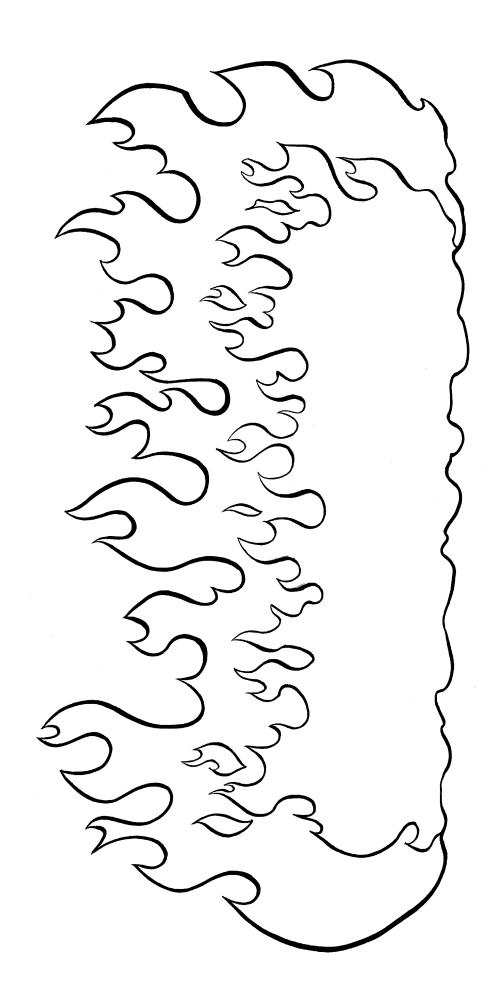
**Daniel 3:1–18** 

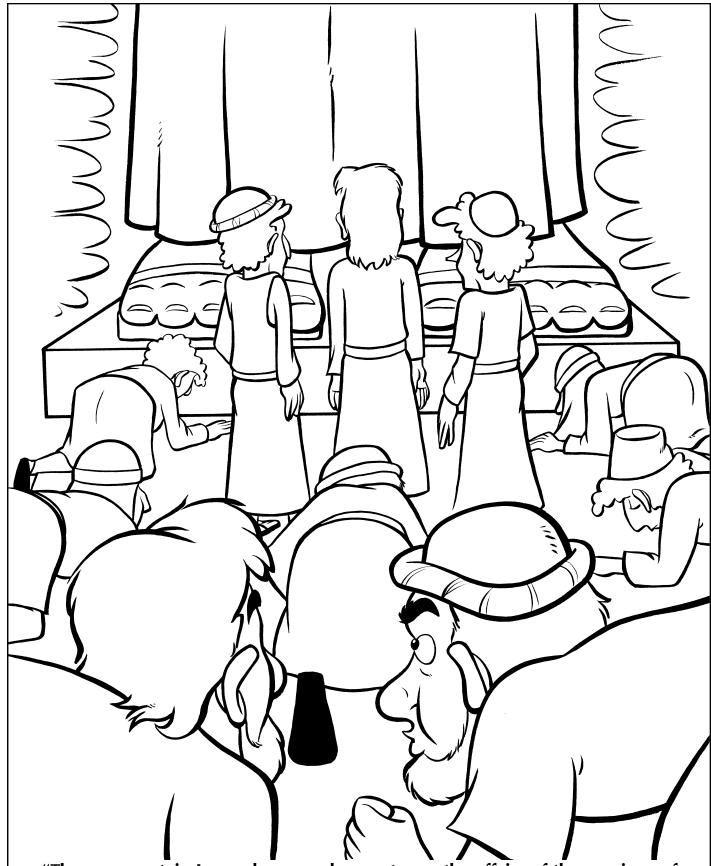
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# Into the Fiery Furnace









"There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up" (Daniel 3:12).



"'Look!' he answered, 'I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God'" (Daniel 3:25).