



The Fiery Furnace

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Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're going to learn another story that involved King Nebuchadnezzar. Remember, our last lesson taught us that King Neb had an issue with pride and God had to humble him. In this story, God showed the king his great power by rescuing 3 guys- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from a terrible situation. King Neb created a huge golden statue and wanted everyone to bow down and worship it. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to do that because they worshipped the real God. When King Neb found out that they refused to obey his commands, he was furious. When the three guys were brought before King Neb to get their punishment, they told King Neb that no matter what punishment he gave them, their God would protect them! King Neb threw them into a fiery furnace that was so hot there was no way anyone could survive it. Well, the three did survive! God protected them and when they were taken out of the furnace, not even one hair on their head was burned! King Neb was amazed and realized that their God was the only God worth worshipping! We need to be brave like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and stand up for Jesus, too!

Big Idea

Jesus stands with us when we stand for him.

Key Question

How can we stand up for Jesus?

Memory Verse

Daniel 3:17a "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Share a time you or someone you know did something really brave.** (Tip: Maybe you stood up to a bully or your uncle is a fireman who saved a burning building. Three guys in our story were brave!)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **By living to honor him every day in every way!** (The Bible says that Christians are Jesus' representatives-meaning people learn about Jesus by watching how his followers act. So, standing for Jesus means obeying the Bible and choosing to talk and act in ways that honor him.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** What book helps us to honor God? Why does it matter how Christians act? **4th-5th:** How can you stand up for Jesus around your friends?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Psalm 121. Identify all that this chapter says about God and what he promises to do for us.** (Answer: God is our protector. He loves us and will always be there for us. God doesn't promise that we won't be faced with hard stuff sometimes, but he promises to be there for us and will help us when we're in trouble. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were in a tough situation but they trusted that God would protect them somehow, someday, and he did!)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: FIERY FURNACE CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a paper bag and a Furnace template (page 5). Give the kids some red, yellow and orange tissue paper.
- Have the kids color the 3 guys. Have them rip up pieces of tissue paper to make flames. Then, have them open up the bag and have them tape the flames to the top, inside of back side of the bag. Then have them tape the guys on the top, inside of the front side of the bag.
- Then have them tape the Big Idea and Memory verse on the front of the bag.
- As they work, read the story from Daniel 3:1-6, 12-18. Remind the kids that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood up for the real God and trusted that God would protect them from the fiery furnace and he did! King Neb learned that God is the only God worth worshipping!

Supplies needed: Paper bags (1 per kid, top cut to shorten height of bag), Furnace template (pre cut, 1 set per kid), Crayons, Tape, Red, Orange and Yellow tissue paper.

OPTION 2: FIERY FURNACE BALL TOSS

Instructions:

- Before playing, decorate a box or large plastic bin with some flames to make it look like a fiery furnace. Tape a line on the floor and place the box/bin at a distance from the line that is challenging but not impossible to toss a ball into.
- Have the kids line up single file behind the line. Give the first kid in line 3 small balls/bean bags and see if they can toss them into the furnace. For each one they get in, they get a point. Have the kids keep track of their points.
- If you have time, read the story from Daniel 3:1-6, 12-18. Remind the kids that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood up for the real God and trusted that God would protect them from the fiery furnace and he did! King Neb learned that God is the only God worth worshipping!

Supplies needed: Box or plastic bin, Construction paper for flames, Tape, 3 Balls/bean bags



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Hey kids and parents! Fill in the blanks as you talk about this week's lesson together. Have fun!

Key Points

- King Nebuchadnezzar set up a massive statue for everyone to _____.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego _____ to bow down to the statue.
- The king threw those three guys into a _____.
- Jesus stands with _____ when we stand for _____.

Big Idea

Jesus stands with us when we stand for him.

Key Question

How can we stand up for Jesus?

Memory Verse

Daniel 3:17a "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us."

Talk About It

1. What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?
2. Share a time you or someone you know did something really brave.
3. What did King Neb want everyone to do? Who refused to do it?
4. What happened to Daniel and his friends when they disobeyed the king? Who protected them?
5. Read Psalm 121. Identify all that this chapter says about God and what he promises to do for us.
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Color the picture.

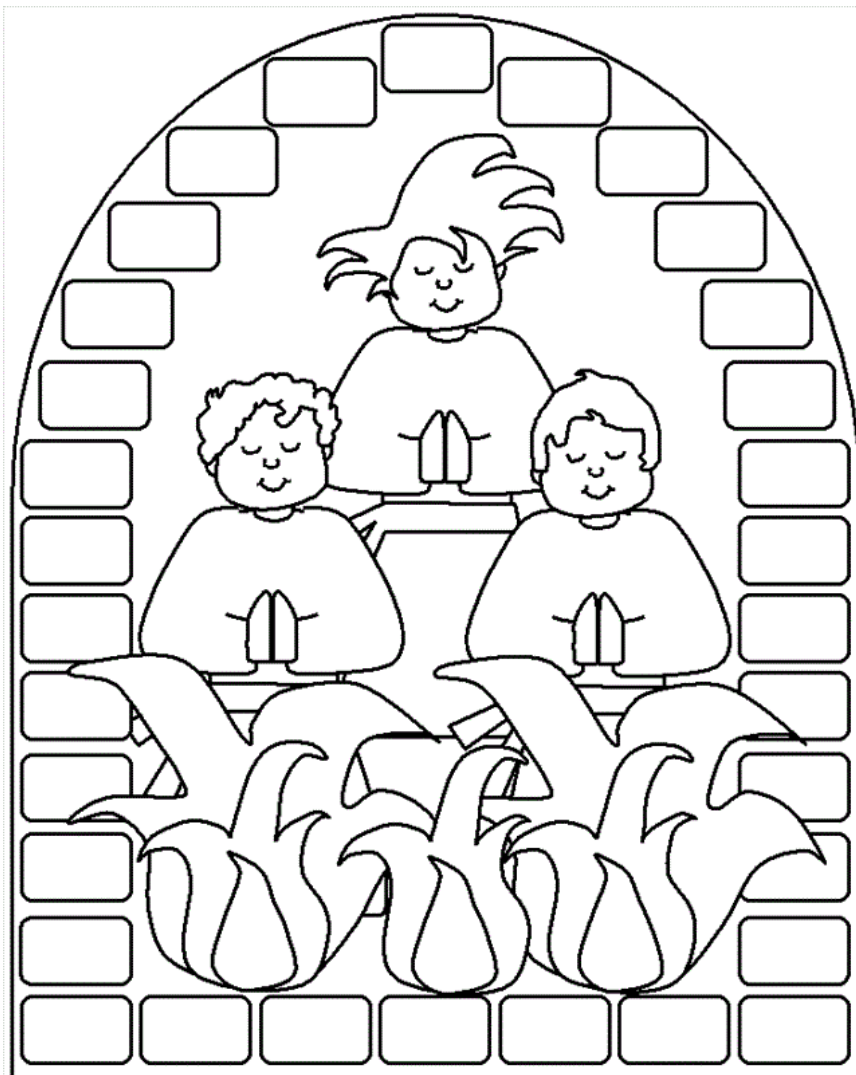
JESUS STANDS WITH US WHEN WE STAND FOR HIM

Key Question

How can we stand up for Jesus?

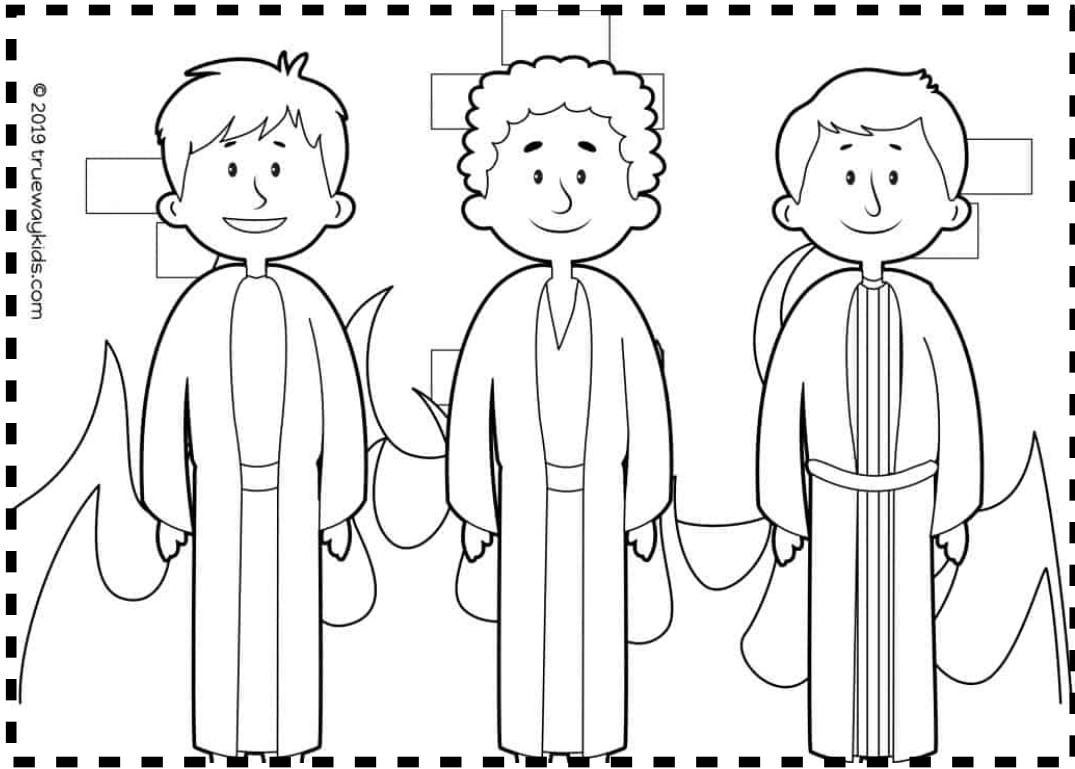
Memory Verse

Daniel 3:17a "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us."



And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

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