

Vacation Church School

What Unit

Lesson: Three Brave Friends

*"...our God whom we serve
is able to deliver us..."*

Daniel 3:17

Goals: By the end of class the child should be able to:

1. Know the story is from the Bible
2. Remember the names Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
3. Relate the events of the story.
4. Know that God protected these heroes because they put faith in Him.
5. Know that sometimes they must do difficult things to serve God and that He will protect them.

Vocabulary:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|------------|
| 1. Shadrach | 4. King Nebuchadnezzar | 7. worship |
| 2. Meshach | 5. statue | 8. obey |
| 3. Abednego | 6. furnace | |

Materials Needed:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> A fireman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> glue (1 per child) | <input type="checkbox"/> colored pencils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> paintbrushes (1 per child) | <input type="checkbox"/> card stock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> markers | <input type="checkbox"/> large box (dishwasher size) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> empty oatmeal box | <input type="checkbox"/> wooden spoon & regular spoon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> shoe box | <input type="checkbox"/> rubber bands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> paper towel tube | <input type="checkbox"/> Tupperware container |
| <input type="checkbox"/> beans or popcorn | <input type="checkbox"/> yellow, red, orange watercolors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ziploc sandwich bags | <input type="checkbox"/> flannel board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> two pot lids | <input type="checkbox"/> Velcro strips |

□ orange & red markers

□ orange & red construction paper

Preparation:

1. *Introduction Item:* ask a fireman in the congregation to talk to the class dressed in full gear to demonstrate the protective gear needed to survive a fire under ordinary circumstances.
2. *Scripture Activity:*
 - a. Draw and cut out a large flame shape on poster board. Write with orange or red markers the scripture verse.
 - b. Trace & cut out small flame scripture verses on cardstock
3. *Story:*
 - a. Make copies of pictures.
 - b. Color, cut out and glue to tag board or card stock.
 - c. Attach Velcro to back of figures* if possible- instead of gluing laminate then attach Velcro
4. *Review Activity:*
 - a. Stand box upright and remove one side so kids can walk into box. On the sides of the box draw flames with magic marker.
 - b. Fill plastic dish with beans or popcorn and put lid on to make tambourine.
 - c. Put plastic wrap over the end of the paper towel tube and secure with rubber band to make horn.
 - d. String rubber bands around shoe box to make guitar.
 - e. The pan lids can be cymbals and the oatmeal box and wooden spoon and drum.
5. *Craft:*
 - a. Make copies of pictures onto cardstock # (one per child)
 - b. Cut out figures for children
 - c. Make sample puzzle
6. *Vocabulary Words:*
 - a. Cut out vocabulary words and back them on poster board.
 - b. Put Vocabulary Words up on wall for children to see and remember the words (for younger children - finding a picture to go with the word helps them remember it better)

Introduction Activity:

Today we're going to learn about some heroes for God. We can read about them in the Bible.

Hold up Bible and open to the Book of Daniel

The three men in our story were in a very hot place. A place that as on fire! God took care of them in a special way. We have a visitor today who is going to talk to us about fire. He's going to show us how only God could have saved our Heroes from the fire.

Let the fireman do his presentation

Story:

Today's story comes from the Bible.

Holding the Bible Put down Bible and place figure of Nebuchadnezzar on board

One day a King named Nebuchadnezzar got an idea. "I think I'll build a statue. A huge statue. I'll cover it with bright shiny gold." And so he did.

Place figure of statue

"Now," said the king, "I want everyone to worship my beautiful statue." The king sent out a decree that all the great men in the land must come to see the golden statue. "Anyone who does not bow down to this great statue will be thrown into a fiery furnace!"

So all the great and important men came from near and far. "Now hear this!" King Nebuchadnezzar's helper cried. "We will give you a signal. When you hear the music everyone will bow down to the statue made by the great King Nebuchadnezzar!" Anyone who does not bow will die in the fiery furnace!"

Too too ta toot to too! Went the trumpet. Boom boom boom went the drums. All the people bowed before the great golden statue... all the people except three young men.

Place figures of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as you say their names

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego loved God very much. They would not bow down and worship anyone or anything but Him.

How do you suppose King Nebuchadnezzar like that? He was angry! When the king gave an order he expected everyone to obey it. "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, I'm going to give you one last chance. The trumpet will sound one more time. If you bow down to my statue you will live. If you do not, you'll be thrown into the fiery furnace!"

"We do not need another chance." These brave young men told King Nebuchadnezzar. "We won't worship anything but the true God. He can save us from the fiery furnace! Even if He doesn't save us we won't bow down to

your statue." Now the king was really mad! "Make the fiery furnace seven times hotter!" He shouted. The furnace got hotter and hotter. Then the king's soldier's grabbed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, tied them up and threw them into the fiery furnace

Remove the three figures and the statue

The fire was so hot that the King had to stand way back to peek into the furnace. He was hoping to see Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego all burned up. What do you think he saw?

Place figures in fiery furnace

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were alright. And someone else was in the fire with them. O you know who it was? It was Jesus, the Son of God.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar knew his statue was only a make believe God. He knew that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worshiped the true God. "Come out" King Nebuchadnezzar called to the brave young men.

Remove figures in furnace and replace individual figures of the three

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the furnace. Not one hair on their head was burned! They didn't even smell like smoke! "I will make a law." The king said. "No one can say anything bad about the true God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!" Then King Nebuchadnezzar gave these brave heroes for God important work to do in his kingdom.

You will probably never have to do anything as scary as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did. But sometimes people may be mean to you or make fun of you because you love God and don't want to do bad things. When you do what God want you to do, no matter what anybody else says, God will be with you just like He was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Scripture Activity:

Have children paint their scripture flames with water colors.

Review Activity:

Pass out musical instruments. Have the children play and march around the furnace. Tell them when to stop and that whoever is in front of the box when the music stops has to jump in the furnace. To get saved from the fiery furnace he has to answer a question about the story. If he doesn't

know the answer, keep trying with different questions until he gets it right. Questions can be repeated over and over again with different children.

Questions:

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar build? *A golden image*
2. What did the King want the people in the kingdom to do? *Bow to image*
3. What was the King's signal to bow to the statue? *Music played*
4. Who didn't bow down to the statue? *Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego*
5. What did King Nebuchadnezzar do to the three friends? *Tied them up and threw them in the fiery furnace*
6. What happened to the brave young men? *Nothing, God protected them.*
7. Who was in the furnace with them? *Jesus*
8. Will God help you if you are brave and do what's right? *Yes*

Craft:

1. Have children color pictures
2. Cut pictures into puzzle pieces
3. Put together puzzles
4. When finished put in baggies and write child's name on it

Vocabulary Words:

King Nebuchadnezzar	statue	furnace
worship	Shadrach	Meshach
Abednego		

Scripture Verse Flame Pattern



