

Daniel

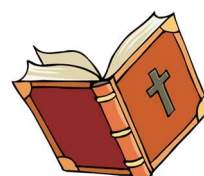
Last week we learnt about what happened to Daniel and his friends when they began his training to serve King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel made the right choice to follow God and didn't follow the crowd by only eating vegetables and not the food from the Royal Courts. To reward him God made Daniel strong and gave him special abilities to be able to understand dreams. After this he helped King Nebuchadnezzar to understand his dreams, so was promoted to a high position in the Royal Courts. Today we are going to learn about something that happened to his friends.

Game

Imagine the floor of your room is really hot and you can't touch it! Using items you can find in the room, can you get from one side of the room to the other without touching the floor?



Bible Reading



The reading today is quite long, so younger children may need parents to tell them a condensed version so they understand the main points, rather than listening to the whole story. Alternatively, they could watch the video clip below or read about the story on p102 of their Big Bible Storybook.

Nebuchadnezzar Commands Everyone to Worship a Gold Statue

King Nebuchadnezzar had a gold statue made, 27 metres high and nearly three metres wide, and he had it set up in the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. Then the king gave orders for all his officials to come together — the princes, governors, lieutenant-governors, commissioners, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the other officials of the provinces. They were to attend the dedication of the statue which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When all these officials gathered for the dedication and stood in front of the statue, a herald announced in a loud voice, "People of all nations, races, and languages! You will hear the sound of the trumpets, followed by the playing of oboes, lyres, zithers, and harps; and then all the other instruments will join in. As soon as the music starts, you are to bow down and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Anyone who does not bow down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace." And so, as soon as they heard the sound of the instruments, the people of all the nations, races, and languages bowed down and worshipped the gold statue which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Daniel's Three Friends are Accused of Disobedience

It was then that some Babylonians took the opportunity to denounce the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May Your Majesty live for ever! Your Majesty has issued an order that as soon as the music starts, everyone is to bow down and worship the gold statue, and that anyone who does not bow down and worship it is to be thrown into a blazing furnace. There are some Jews whom you put in charge of the province of Babylon — Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego — who are disobeying Your Majesty's orders. They do not worship your god or bow down to the statue you set up."

At that, the king flew into a rage and ordered the three men to be brought before him. He said to them, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is it true that you refuse to worship my god and to bow down to the gold statue I have set up? Now then, as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, oboes, lyres, zithers, harps, and all the other instruments, bow down and worship the statue. If you do not, you will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace. Do you think there is any god who can save you?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered, "Your Majesty, we will not try to defend ourselves. If the God whom we serve is able to save us from the blazing furnace and from your power, then he will. But even if he doesn't, Your Majesty may be sure that we will not worship your god, and we will not bow down to the gold statue that you have set up."

Daniel's Three Friends are Sentenced to Death

Then Nebuchadnezzar lost his temper, and his face turned red with anger at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So he ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual. And he commanded the strongest men in his army to tie the three men up and throw them into the blazing furnace. So they tied them up, fully dressed — shirts, robes, caps, and all — and threw them into the blazing furnace. Now because the king had given strict orders for the furnace to be made extremely hot, the flames burnt up the guards who took the men to the furnace. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, still tied up, fell into the heart of the blazing fire.

Suddenly Nebuchadnezzar leapt to his feet in amazement. He asked his officials, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the blazing furnace?"

They answered, "Yes, we did, Your Majesty."

"Then why do I see four men walking about in the fire?" he asked. "They are not tied up, and they show no sign of being hurt — and the fourth one looks like an angel."

The Three Men are Released and Promoted

So Nebuchadnezzar went up to the door of the blazing furnace and called out, "Shadrach! Meshach! Abednego! Servants of the Supreme God! Come out!" And they came out at once. All the princes, governors, lieutenant-governors, and other officials of the king gathered to look at the three men, who had not been harmed by the fire. Their hair was not singed, their clothes were not burnt, and there was no smell of smoke on them.

The king said, "Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel and rescued these men who serve and trust him. They disobeyed my orders and risked their lives rather than bow down and worship any god except their own.

"And now I command that if anyone of any nation, race, or language speaks disrespectfully of the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, he is to be torn limb from limb, and his house is to be made a pile of ruins. There is no other god who can rescue like this."

And the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to higher positions in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3

You can watch a video of the story here -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6TPo910LnY>



Big Questions



1. Why were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into the fire?
2. How do you think they felt when this happened?
3. How did God protect them?
4. What do you think King Nebuchadnezzar thought when the men came out of the fire unharmed?
5. What changed with King Nebuchadnezzar when he saw they were unhurt?

The three friends stood strong for what they knew was right, even though they knew they would face something scary if they didn't do what the King wanted. They trusted God would look after them and protect them.

6. How could you stand strong for God?



Prayer



We can stand strong for Jesus in whatever situation we are in by making the decision to behave in the way God would want.

"Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith and purity." 1 Timothy 4v12

It doesn't matter how old you are, you can decide to follow God's ways and stand strong. I read this verse this week and it made me think of you all; from the smallest of you in Alpha to the oldest in Delta, you can be an example for your friends and even adults! If you speak kindly and honestly, behave in a way that God would want and show love to others then you are being a great example to everyone around you, as you stand strong for God!

Ask God to help you stand strong for him, this could be at home, school, church or when you are with your friends.



Songs

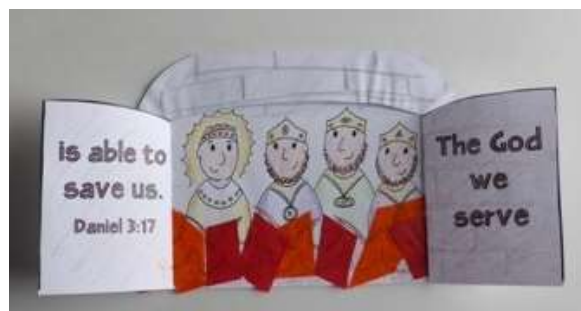


Strong - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HI-POuRIcPQ>

One Way - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNe4HCO4SuQ>



Craft



<https://biblecraftsbyjenny.weebly.com/fiery-furnace-door.html#>



<https://craftingthewordofgod.com/tag/fiery-furnace/>

You could also draw a picture of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire with the angel who protected them.

There are some more activities on the following pages.

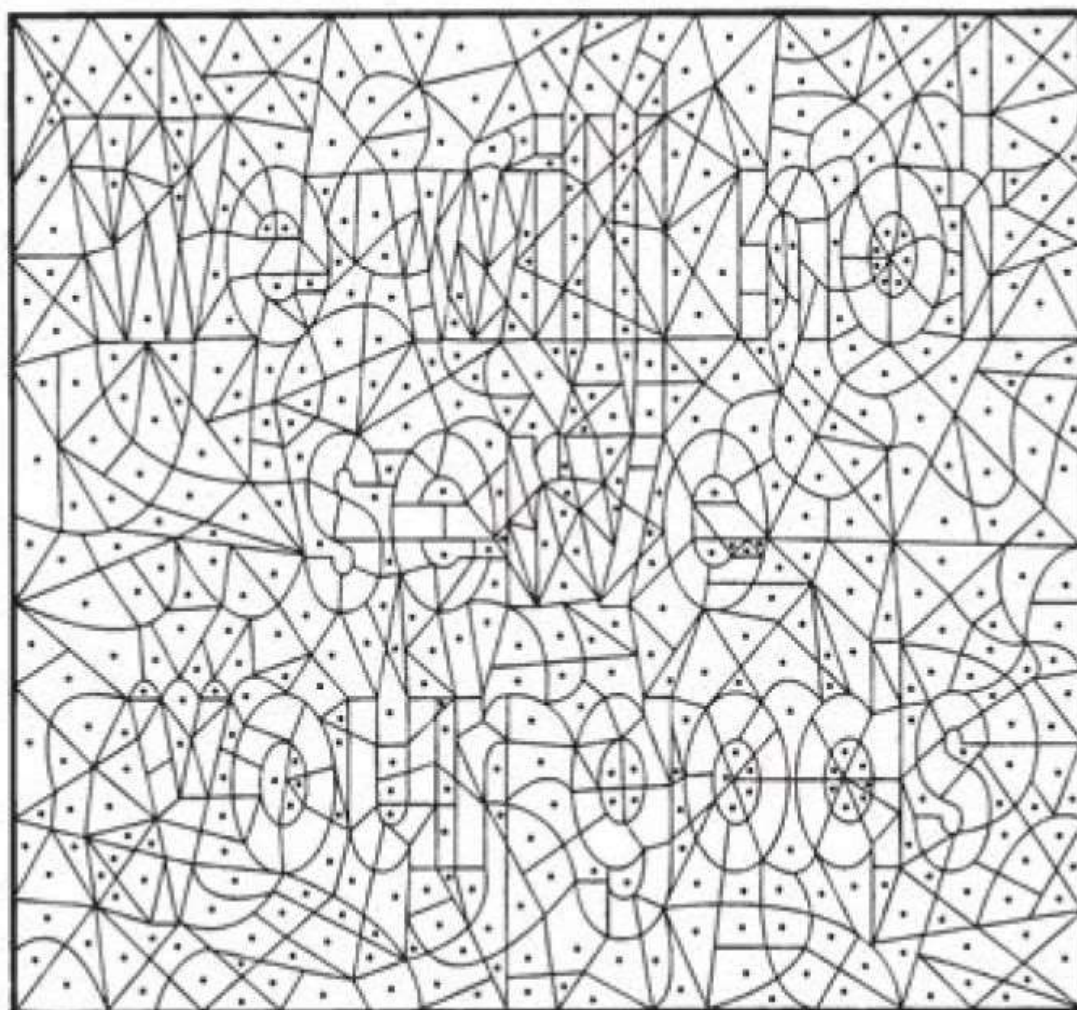
BibleWise

Three Brave Friends

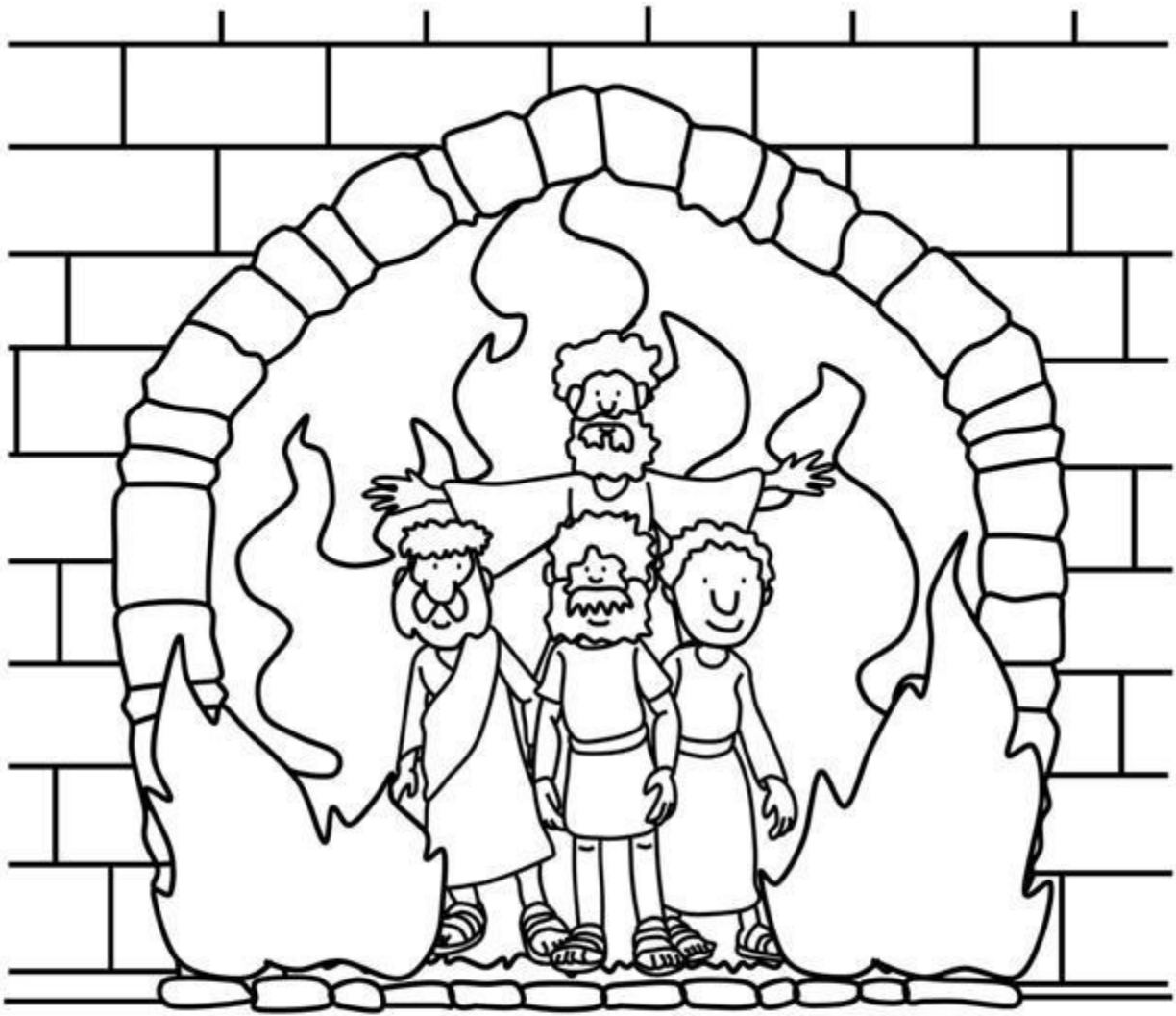
**Daniel's
Friends Face a
Fiery Furnace**

—Daniel 3

To find out what Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told the king,
color in the empty spaces.



Used by permission: Bible Puzzles for Kids Ages 6-8, Cincinnati: Standard Publishing Group, © 2006



© Crafting The Word Of God

Word Search for Three in the Fire

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

L I D I T A B E D N E G O I D
U N A A L I Q U A T U O R I T
L F N E R S E C T E M L I B O
N U I L A M C O N S E D U A S
N O E R E Q U I S C I L L B N
D R L V E L E X E R I R I Y R
L A O R S O L D I E R S T L R
S U M I H E N D R E T A T O E
I T N I A T B H E N I S M N D
T I O N D E F U R N A C E V E
L A I Q R A T N O N S E C T E
T U E D A L O R E D E L I Q U
N E B U C H A D N E Z Z A R U
L A O R H M O L O R S I T E R
S U M I N E N M E S H A C H E

ABEDNEGO
BABYLON
DANIEL
FIRE
FURNACE

GOLD
MESHACH
NEBUCHADNEZZAR
SHADRACH
SOLDIERS