The Fiery Furnace
Daniel 3

STORY POINT: GOD DELIVERED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO FROM THE KING.

King Nebuchadnezzar made a tall gold statue. His official announced to all the people of Babylon: “When you hear music, you must fall down and worship this statue. Anyone who doesn’t will be thrown into a fiery furnace!” Three friends from Judah—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—refused to bow down to a statue. This news made the king angry! He called for the friends. “If you do not bow down when you hear the music, I will throw you into a fiery furnace! Then what God could rescue you from my power?”

The friends answered, “The God we serve is able to rescue us. But even if God chooses not to, we will not bow down and worship the statue.” King Nebuchadnezzar told some of his soldiers to throw the friends into the fiery furnace. Suddenly, the king jumped up. “Didn’t we tie up three men and throw them into the fire? Look!” the king shouted. “I see four men walking around in the fire.”

Nebuchadnezzar shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego—servants of the Most High God! Come here!” So they came out of the fire. They had not been hurt by the fire at all.

Nebuchadnezzar praised God: “The God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego rescued His servants! No other god can save people like this!”

Christ Connection: God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire. Only He could rescue them. God rescues us too, through His Son, Jesus. Only Jesus can save us from our sin. Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross provided the way for us to be rescued from sin and have eternal life.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS
• What can help you make the right decision when you have to choose between following God or following others?
• What might following God cost you? Is it worth it?
• How could taking a stand for God influence others who might not believe in or follow God?
Crossword Challenge
See if you can remember the details of the story of the fiery furnace. Use the clues given below to fill in the crossword puzzle.

DOWN
1. The three men said they would not bow down and worship the _____ statue.
2. The king gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego _______ jobs in the kingdom.
3. The king threw the three men into a fiery ______.
6. When the men did not bow down to the statue, King Nebuchadnezzar was ______.
7. God _____ us through His Son, Jesus.
8. The people were commanded to worship the statue when the ______ played.
11. The King made a new ______ for the people.

ACROSS
1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said that _____ was able to rescue them from the fiery furnace.
4. When King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace, he saw _____ men walking around in the fire.
5. Nebuchadnezzar ________ God for rescuing the three men.
9. King ________ was the king who commanded the people to worship the gold statue.
10. King Nebuchadnezzar was the king of _________.

Word list:
angry
Babylon
four
furnace
God
gold
important
law
music
Nebuchadnezzar
praised
rescues

Unit 16, Session 1: The Fiery Furnace