



REFERENCES: DANIEL 3; PROPHETS AND KINGS, PP. 503-513.

The Fiery Furnace

Has anyone ever wanted you to do something wrong? What did you do? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were asked to do something wrong too.

It was finished at last. The gigantic golden statue King Nebuchadnezzar had ordered to be made stood tall—as tall as an eight-story building! The next day many rulers who served Nebuchadnezzar gathered in the valley. They stared up at the huge golden statue.

The rulers also stared at a large furnace near

the statue. Soldiers

were building

a big fire in

it. “Why are

they doing

that?” people

may have

whispered.

Finally

a man stood

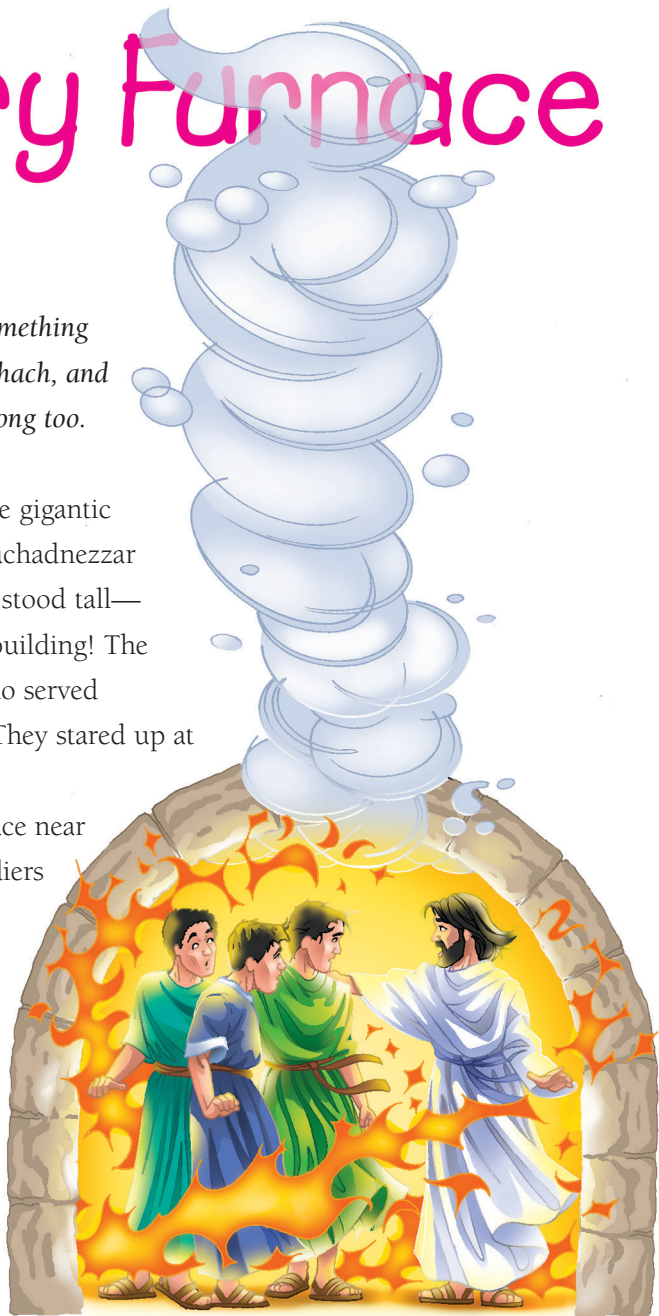
Memory Verse

“We will serve
the LORD.”

JOSHUA 24:15, NIV.

The Message

We worship God
when we refuse to
do wrong things.



before the crowd. "People!" he shouted. "Listen to the king's command! When the musicians play, you must bow down and worship the king's golden statue. Anyone who doesn't obey will be thrown into this blazing furnace!"

Suddenly the music burst forth. Everyone fell down. Everyone except Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They couldn't worship a statue! Some men saw them and hurried to the king. "Look!" they exclaimed. "Those three Hebrews did not bow down!"

King Nebuchadnezzar's face turned red with anger. "Bring them here!" he ordered.

The guards rushed to obey. "So you did not bow down to worship the golden statue!" the king shouted at the three Hebrews. "I will give you one more chance. But if you don't bow down and worship the statue, you will be thrown into the blazing fire! Who will help you then?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood straight and tall. "O king," they said, "our God is able to save us. But even if He decides not to, we will never worship your gods or the golden statue!"

"Make the fire seven times hotter!" King Nebuchadnezzar shouted angrily to the soldiers. "Tie up these men and throw them into the furnace!"

So the guards threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the roaring fire.



King Nebuchadnezzar watched the fire. He soon jumped up and shouted, "Didn't we put three men into the furnace? I see four! And the fourth looks like the Son of God!"

"Shadrach! Meshach! Abednego! Come out!" the king called.

The young Hebrews stepped out of the fire. The rulers crowded around. They couldn't believe it! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not burned. They didn't even smell like smoke!

"Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!" the king exclaimed. "Their God saved His servants from the fire. No other God can save people like this!"

Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

We Point to self, then to others.

will serve Move hands away from body, palms up.

the LORD. Point upward.

Joshua 24:15 . . . Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Encourage your child to share the “fiery furnace” they made in Sabbath School (or help draw and color an outline of a furnace with four men in it) and tell the Bible story as they share the “fiery furnace” with someone.



MONDAY

With your child, take an empty egg carton outside and fill it with things God made (one item per cup).

Talk about how only God can make these things, so only He deserves our worship.

TUESDAY

Talk to your child about fire safety. Say: If a friend wants to play with fire, it is dangerous

and wrong. (Discuss why.) Say: We worship God by refusing to do wrong things. Ask: Do you want to be brave for Jesus as the three Hebrews were?

WEDNESDAY

Light a candle. Explain that the flame colors change as the heat of the flame changes. Discuss safety in using matches and candles. Visit a fire station or read a book about fires to help your child understand what the Hebrews escaped from.



THURSDAY

March around your house to marching music and have your child “freeze” when you stop the music; then begin marching when you start the music again. Remind your child that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were asked to bow down to worship the statue when they heard the music.

Tell your child about a time you refused to do something wrong. What happened? Pray that your child will say “No” to doing wrong.

FRIDAY

Have your child tell the Bible story for worship. Sing praise songs using musical instruments or pots and pans for “accompaniment.” Pray that your family members will serve only God.

