

3.1 God Protects



3.1 God Protects

Long ago, three young Israelite men—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—lived in Babylon and worked for King Nebuchadnezzar. The king built a giant statue of gold and ordered everyone to worship it. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego loved God and wouldn't worship the statue. They would only worship God, because they knew He is the one true God. The king was very angry they wouldn't obey his order and commanded the three young men to be thrown in a giant fiery furnace. But after the men were thrown inside, King Nebuchadnezzar saw them just walking around! They weren't burning up! God protected them. So Nebuchadnezzar had the young men taken out. Because God had protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the king believed in God and ordered everyone in his kingdom to respect God too.

The following passages have been provided for you to model to the children in your small group how to look for truth in Scripture. Some verses may be engaging for your children while others may simply aid in your preparation to lead this time of discussion.

Questions:

1. Read Daniel 3:4–5. **What were the people supposed to do when they heard the music?** (They were supposed to bow down and worship the gold statue King Nebuchadnezzar made.)
 2. Read verse 6. **What would happen to the people if they didn't worship the statue?** (They would be thrown into a blazing furnace.)
 3. Read verse 12. **Who refused to worship the statue?** (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.)
 4. Read verses 16–17. **When the king told Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego they'd be thrown in the furnace if they didn't worship the statue, what did they say?** (They said they wouldn't worship the statue, and God could protect them from the fire.)
 5. Read verse 28. **When God protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, what did the king do?** (He praised God.)
 6. **What part do you think you can play in The Big God Story?**
- 