

LESSON OVERVIEW

Big Idea: We should have big faith because we serve a big God.

Key Question: What has God done in your life to make your faith bigger?

Memory Verse: *Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13*

Overview: This is one of the most famous stories in the Bible. Three friends with really weird names (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) had big faith and stood up for God. They lived in a place called Babylon, a place that didn't worship God. In fact, the king of Babylon created a huge gold statue, taller than a big tree, and told everyone to worship it. Any time music played, everyone had to stop what they were doing to bow down to this gold statue. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew the real God, the one we talk about in church every week. They knew that this gold statue was nothing and they decided to disobey the king and not bow to the statue. So, the king called them in and said, "If you don't bow down, I will throw you in the big fire and you'll die." They still refused and said, "We believe in the real God. He is who we bow to. You can throw us in the fire, but our God will save us." The three friends had big faith in God. And when they were thrown in the fire, God saved them from being hurt. At the end of the story, everyone realized that their God was a big God - the only one worth worshipping.

CLASSROOM AGENDA

- 5 min **PLAY:** Begin working on Activity Page #1.
- 5 min **WARM UP:** What's the bravest thing you've ever done? Were you nervous? What or who helped you accomplish it?
- 5 min **PREVIEW:** Draw the bubbles on a whiteboard and fill in the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question. (If applicable, have kids fill in their bubbles on the Kids Activity Page.)
- 20 min **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.
- 5 min **RECAP:** Read the Lesson Overview from the Teacher's Guide and then answer the KEY QUESTION.
- 5 min **EXPLORE:** Read [Daniel 3:18](#). The three friends believed God could rescue them - and they were still going to trust him even if he didn't. Do you think you could have said the same thing if you were there? Explain.
- 10 min **PLAY:** Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.
- 5 min **CLOSE:**
 - How can you show big faith this week?
 - Share prayer requests and pray as a class.

TEACHER TIPS

Allow each kid to share. The point: get kids thinking about what it takes to be brave. Be prepared with your own story to help get the conversation started.

Answer: In big church we call this developing your own personal "conviction". Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego could see what God had done for them: he made them smart and strong, gave them a great job, and answered their prayers (Daniel 2). Help the kids make their own list of God's blessings in their lives. Have them include things like their home, parents and siblings, food to eat, school and teachers, and even specific answers to prayer. Our faith in God grows when we realize all that He has done for us.

Remind the kids that God doesn't always answer all of our prayers the way we want him to, and that's not a reason to stop believing in him. The three friends had big faith because they knew that God alone was God, no matter what happened.

Option #1

Smoking Hot Potato Game

A great game for a quizzing kids on what they remember about the story. Have kids stand in a circle. Give the ball to one kid. Have them toss it to someone else in the circle. **After every third toss**, whoever has the ball must answer a question. If they get it right, they toss the ball to another person. If they get it wrong, they have to sit down. Last one standing wins!

Questions:

1. What's the Big Idea today? (We should have big faith....we serve a big God)
2. What are the names of our Bible heros today? (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego)
3. What was the king asking them to do? (bow to a golden statue)
4. What did the 3 friends say? (no, we only bow to God)
5. What did the king do? (threw them in the furnace/fire)
6. What happened? (God saved them, weren't hurt)
7. What was the name of the country where the friends were living? (Babylon)
8. What book of the Bible does our memory verse come from? (1 Corinthians)
9. What is our memory verse? (Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith, Be courageous...)
10. Is this story from the Old or New testament? (old)

Supplies needed

- ball
- questions

Bonus Activity:

Play the **Telephone Game**. Have kids sit in a circle. Whisper the **Big Idea** in one kid's ear. Then have them whisper to their neighbor. Continue around the circle. See what the message turned out to be!

Option #2

"King, May We"

Played like the classic game, "Mother May I". A teacher stands at one end of the room and the kids at the opposite end. Have kids take turns asking the teacher to move forward 2 steps by saying, "King, may we take two steps forward?" The king responds, "Yes, if anyone can answer the question correctly." If they miss, they don't get to advance. The game ends when all the questions have been asked. The goal is to get as close to the king as possible.

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1 Discover Truth

Watch this week's lesson video as a family (see link above) and fill in the blanks.

1. The names of the three friends are _____
_____ and _____.
2. These three friends knew and _____ the real God.
3. The three friends were thrown into the blazing _____ because they didn't _____ down to worship the statue.
4. The three friends had Big _____ in a Big _____.

2 Talk about it

Answer these questions together as a family.

1. What's the bravest thing you've ever done? Were you nervous? What or who helped you accomplish it?
2. Have you ever done something that is wrong just because you wanted to please your friends? Does this honor God? Why or why not?
3. Read [Daniel 3:18](#). The three friends believed God could rescue them - and they were still going to trust him even if he didn't. Do you think you could have said the same thing if you were there? Explain.

3 Live it out

Memorize this week's Bible verse:

Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13



NAME: _____

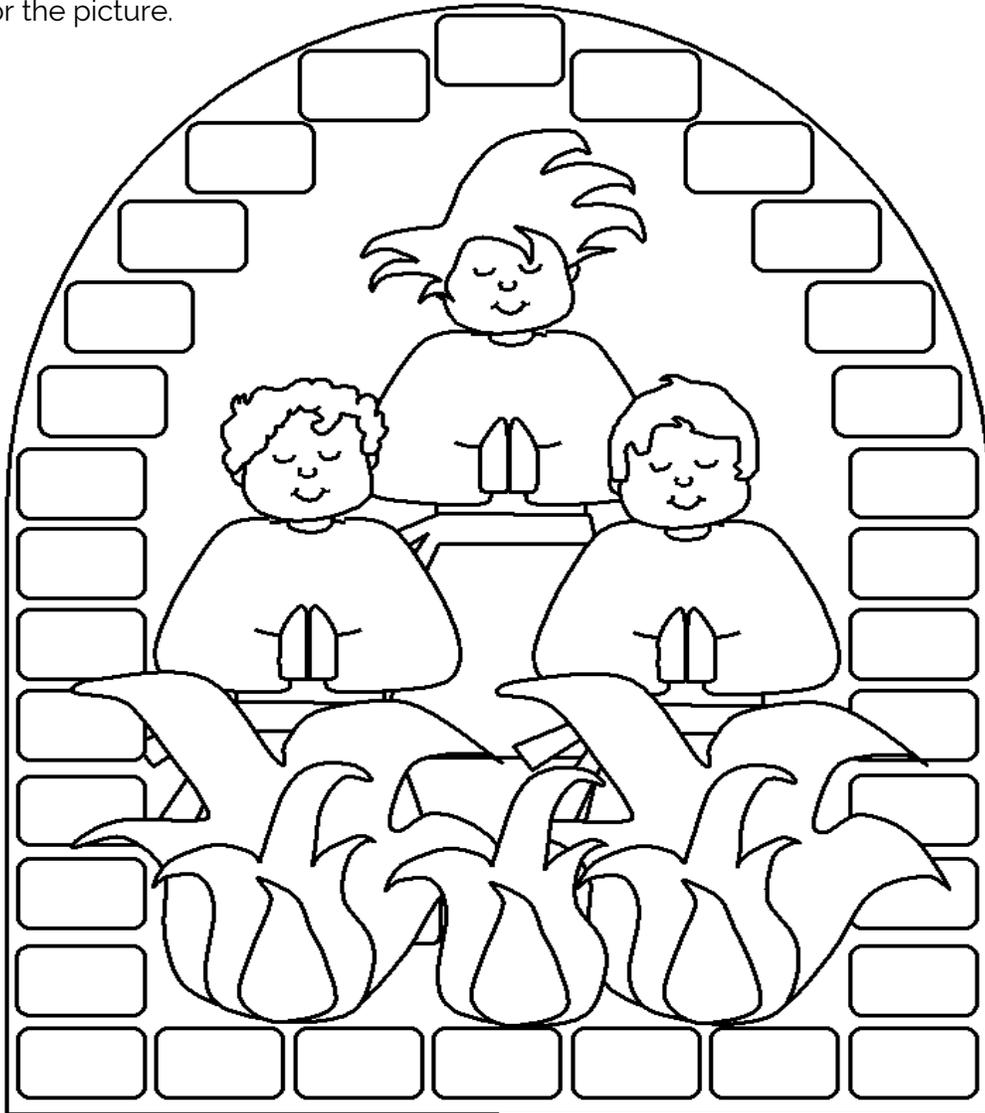
BIG IDEA:

We should have big faith
because we serve a big God.

MEMORY VERSE:

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courageous. Be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

Instructions: color the picture.



And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:20

