



# SHADRACH, MESHACH & ABEDNEGO

Young Preschool • #OT22 • November 3, 2024

## Concept

God is always faithful.

## Goal

Children will learn through Daniel and his friends that God is always faithful and never abandons His children. They will learn that by becoming His child through Jesus, they can experience His faithfulness.

## Passage

Daniel 1-4

Key Verse: "The God we serve is able to save us... and He will rescue us from your hand, O King." Daniel 3:17

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<b>Lesson:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>The Beginner's Bible, Karyn Henley</i></li></ul>	<b>Learning Activity #1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Printed picture of fiery furnace with key verse, 1/child</li><li>Orange construction paper, 5 sheets/class</li><li>Red construction paper, 5 sheets/class</li><li>Glue sticks</li></ul>

### \*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

# Background Information/Teacher Helps

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First Egypt, then a hot-tempered king of the insignificant kingdom called Babylon over-ran Judah and captured Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, on the way to establishing a vast empire, stole treasures from the Temple and took hostage 70 teenagers from the most important families of Jerusalem to try to make sure Judah wouldn't give him any trouble. The king planned to assimilate those 70 youths, making them into Babylonians on the inside even if they looked like Hebrews on the outside. The plan was that those seventy would lead the rest of the people away from God to the Babylonian world-view. However, four of the seventy stood firm for God, even though it could have cost them their lives. Among those hostages were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

“The book of Daniel has a high and lofty view of the sovereignty of God. The theme is: There is a God in heaven. The book repeats that He is the great God, He is the God of gods, the king of heaven. When we understand that prevailing theme, we are able to understand how God may use some people of his purposes, even when they are not His own children.”[1]

God used Nebuchadnezzar to discipline His children by taking them into exile. The people of Judah were forced to leave everything and live as strangers in a foreign land, far from the Temple and their homes. To make evident to the others that only their own stubborn faithlessness could cause them to be far from God, Daniel and his friends were sent first.

“Daniel didn't make a fuss when his name was changed, nor when they wanted him to go to Babylon University, but when they tried to feed him the king's meat he refused. Why? In the Old Testament there is no prohibition against taking another name. There is no command against learning what other people have to teach. Moses and Joseph were both assimilated into other cultures. However, in the Bible there is a strong prohibition against eating that which has been offered to idols. Where God said no, Daniel said no. Sometimes Christians argue over the things where God hasn't spoken, while allowing the things He has spoken to slip under the rug. There are certain things God says are wrong . . . If we want the blessing of God upon our lives, we better have the courage and authority to stand as Daniel stood and say, ‘ I will not defile myself, because God has said no.’”[2]

[1] David Jeremiah, *The Handwriting on the Wall*, 1992, Word Publishing, p. 20.

[2] David Jeremiah, *The Handwriting on the Wall*, 1992, Word Publishing, p. 32.

## Set Up

The day of class – Cut “flames” out of the red and orange construction paper for Learning Activity #1.

## Incorporation Lg. Group

### Activity Stations:

- **Music – “God is Faithful” [1]**
  - **Instructions:** Sing the following verses to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. Follow the action instructions below the words as you sing. Repeat several times until the children are able to follow.

#### **When I’m running in the park**

Run in place

#### **When I’m sleeping and it’s dark**

Rest cheeks on hands

#### **When I swim out in the sun**

Pretend to swim

#### **When I look at books for fun**

Open hands, palms up

#### **Everywhere I go or stay,**

Stretch arms wide.

#### **God is faithful every day.**

Shake head “yes”

[1] Adapted from 100 More Actions Songs! For Toddlers, ©1991 by David C. Cook Publishing Co., #70.

## Introduction Lg. Group

The Bible tells about a boy named Daniel, who lived a very, very, very long time ago. One day, a king took Daniel and three of his friends away from their homes. The king had a really funny-sounding name. He was called Nebuchadnezzar and was king of a country called Babylon. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted Daniel and his friends to worship a gold statue instead of God. He wanted them to get on their knees and bow before the statue like this (demonstrate). King Nebuchadnezzar wanted Daniel and his friends to love a statue instead of their God.

But Daniel and his friends loved God more than anything else. Nothing the king did could make them worship a statue. They knew that God is always faithful. That means He always keeps His promises. They decided that they would NEVER, EVER worship anyone other than their God.

## Transition

Listen while I read to you about Daniel’s three friends.

### **“In the Fire”**

**Instructions:** Read pages 248-253 of The Beginner’s Bible. Show the pictures as you read.

## Lesson Lg. Group

## Review Questions

- What did the king want the people to worship? (He wanted them to worship a gold statue.)
- Why did the king get mad? (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego wouldn't bow down to his statue.)
- So what did the king do? (His servants threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the hot, hot furnace.)
- And the men were safe! That is amazing! Fire is very dangerous. If we get too close to fire, we get burned. Why do you think they didn't get burned? (Allow children to give their answers.)

Do you know what those boys said to the king when he was ready to throw them in the hot, hot furnace? They said "the God we serve is able to save us... and He will rescue us." They knew that God is always faithful. They told the king that even if God did not save them, they would not worship the king or his gold statue. They loved God more than a silly statue because God is always faithful, and the statue was just a big piece of gold. When those boys came out of the fire, they were fine. Their clothes weren't burned – and they didn't even smell like smoke!

And do you know what? God not only saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, he also showed King Nebuchadnezzar that He is always faithful. King Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Their God has sent his angel and saved his servants from the fire!... No other god can save his people like this" (Daniel 3:28-29, NCV). Now everyone in the whole world knew that God is always faithful. God still wants everyone in the whole world to know that He is always faithful. He wants us to know that He sent his son, Jesus, to die for our bad choices so we can be God's friends forever.

Let's pray and thank God that He wants everyone to be His friends and that He wants everyone to know that God is always faithful.

Let's sing the song we learned earlier to help us remember that God is faithful. (Sing song from Activity Station.)

Let's make a picture of Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, in the fiery furnace with the angel of God. Let's ask God to help us remember that He is always faithful.

## Craft – In the Fiery Furnace

**Instructions:** Give each child a picture and some red and orange construction paper flames. Color the picture. Help them rub the glue stick on the construction paper flames and stick them on the picture.

## Transition

## Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

## Optional Activity

**Club Song (from B.G. skit)** – to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”...

Here's to thee my camel brothers

Anyone can see

Fall and winter, spring and summer

Friends we'll always be.

## God Is Always Faithful

### Bible Guy Skit

*[Mrs. Bible Guy is busy cleaning and straightening the house when Bible Guy enters. He has a confused and dejected expression which Mrs. Bible Guy notices.]*

**Mrs. B.G.** : You look pretty down. Is something wrong?

**B.G.** : It's the Camel Lodge... you know, that club Josiah asked me to join?

**Mrs. B.G.** : Yes, a lot of your friends are in that club.

**B.G.** : Matthew's such an important guy and all my friends respect him so much. It's really important to me to be in the Lodge, but I think things are getting out of hand... and I'm not sure that I agree with some of the things that they are doing.

**Mrs. B.G.** : What do you mean?

**B.G.** : First we had a special handshake and club song. Let me show you.  
*[He demonstrates a silly 'Fred Livingstone / Waterbuffalo lodge--style' handshake and sings a silly song.]*

**B.G.** : That stuff really doesn't bother me. It's actually kind of fun... makes me feel like I belong.

**Mrs. B.G.** : So what's bothering you?

**B.G.** : Today Matthew wanted us to say these slogans as part of our meeting.

**Mrs. B.G.** : Slogans?

**B.G.** : Yeah. You know, little sayings that tell you how to live and think... things like "Always look out for #1," "Every man for himself," "May the best man win." I don't remember what they were exactly except they all sounded selfish. They were all about ME! ME! ME!

*[Gesture toward chest with thumb on each ME!]*

**Mrs. B.G.** : Did you say the slogans with them?

**B.G.** : No! I told them that God wants us to put others ahead of ourselves.

**Mrs. B.G.** : Good for you! What happened then?

**B.G.** : Everyone started laughing. Even my friends! I know it was a real honor to be invited into the Camel Lodge and I really wanted Josiah to like me. Now he's making fun of me....

**Mrs. B.G.** : That must really hurt!

**B.G.** : That's not the worst. He said (mocking Matthew's snobbish tone), "You need to choose what is more important, being in Camel Lodge 562 or worrying about what God says." He'll kick me out and I could lose all my friends, too!

**Mrs. B.G.** : It makes me think of Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego.

*[Tell story briefly in your own words.]*

They knew they had to stand up for God and what He says is right. And God was faithful to them. I know He'll be faithful to you, too.

**B.G.** : I guess I know what I need to do.

*[He exits]*

*[Mrs. Bible Guy keeps busy... time passes. Ad. Lib prayer for Bible Guy if desired.]*

*[Bible guy comes back in, singing club song]*

**B.G.** : Well, I did it! I was faithful to God and took a stand. I told Josiah that no matter how much I wanted him to like me and no matter how much I wanted to be part of the Camel Lodge, I can't say these slogans. And you know what? The other guys said that they never thought about what the slogans really mean, you know how selfish they are and all. Matthew still didn't want me in the Lodge, but a lot of the guys did. So I get to stay and we aren't going to say those slogans anymore. God really was faithful and now the guys in the Camel Lodge can see that, too.

**Mrs. B.G.** : That was great! That took a lot of courage. Hey, why don't we teach the kids your special handshake?

*[Show several kids the handshake]*

Good job kids. We gotta go! See Ya!