



SHADRACH, MESHACH & ABEDNEGO

Preschool-K • #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
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego" CD</i> • <i>CD player</i> <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Picture of a statue</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Beginner's Bible, Karyn Henley</i> <p>Learning Activity #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adam Raccoon and the Mighty Giant, Glen Keane</i> 	<p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circle with picture of men in furnace, flames and 3 men standing printed on cardstock, 1/child • Circle with key verse printed on cardstock, 1/child • Paper fasteners, 1/child • Markers • Scissors

*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 out the circles for Learning Activity #2. Cut around the entire circle with the printed pictures. Cut around the circle, cutting the wide "V" out as well.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Music – “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego” from 1997-2000 VBS.**
 - **Instructions:** Play the CD and help the children learn the words.

Introduction Lg. Group

Have any of you ever heard of a boy in the Bible named Daniel? There is a book called Daniel in the Old Testament. When Daniel was only a teenager, he and three of his friends were taken to a country called Babylon. The king of Babylon was named Nebuchadnezzar (neb-you-kud-NEZ-zur). Can you say that long, funny name? (Say it with the children a few times until they can repeat it.) King Nebuchadnezzar wanted Daniel and his friends to worship him and a gold statue he made instead of God. Who knows what a statue is? (Call on kids for answers. Then show them the picture of the statue of Jesus.) This is a picture of a statue. A statue looks like an animal or person. It is made of wood, clay, stone or metal. Statues are like giant pictures for us to see. Some people think they have special power, but they aren't real like the animals or people. King Nebuchadnezzar tried to get Daniel and his friends to love a statue made by men instead of their God who created them. The king wanted Daniel and his friends to get on their knees and bow before the statue like this (demonstrate). But Daniel and his friends knew that the statue had no power so they said “no.”

The king changed Daniel and his friends' names. Daniel's new name was Belteshazzar, and his friends' names were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. But Daniel and his friends loved God, and nothing the king did could change that. They knew that God is always faithful. God will always keep His promises. They decided that they would never, ever love anything more than their God, the only true God.

Lesson Lg. Group

“Fiery Furnace”

Instructions: Read “Fiery Furnace” pages 247-250 of The Beginner's Bible.

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 burned and died, didn't they! (NO!). NO?! Why not? 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.)

Lesson Continued

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 from your hand, O King.” They said that because they knew that God is always faithful. They told the king that even if God didn’t save them from the fire, they would not worship the king or his gold statue because they loved God more than anything else. 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! These three men trusted their God. They refused to obey my command. And they were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god other than their own. So I now make this law: The people of any nation or language must not say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego... 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 wants everyone in the whole world to know that He is always faithful. He wants us to know that He sent Jesus to earth to die on the cross and to pay for our bad choices so we can be God’s friends forever...

Transition

Let’s get into small groups to talk about how God is always faithful.

Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

God tells us in His Bible that He is always faithful. When we say God is faithful, we mean that He is real and He always does what He promises. He promises to always love us and to always take care of us.

- What are some ways He has taken care of you? (Suggestions: He gave us mommies, daddies, grandmas, grandpas, brothers, sisters, friends to take care of us and make sure we’re safe. He answers our prayers.)
- Has God ever answered a prayer you’ve prayed? How did He answer it?

Let’s pray and thank God that He wants everyone to be His friends and to know that He is always faithful. Let’s thank Jesus that He died on the cross for people’s bad choices.

Transition

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

**Learning
Activity# 2
Lg. Group**

Craft – In the Fiery Furnace Story Wheel

Instructions: Give each child one of each circle. Color the flames yellow, orange and red. Color the pictures of the men. Place the circle with the key verse on top of the circle with the pictures and decorate as desired. Put a paper fastener through the middle of the two circles at the point of the wide "V." When the children turn the top circle to the pictures they will be able to retell the story. (Begin with the 3 men.) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were told they had to go in the furnace because they wouldn't worship the statute of the king. They said, "The God we serve is able to save us...and He will rescue us from your hand, O King." (Turn to flames.) The door to the furnace was opened and the men were thrown in. (Turn to flames and men with Jesus.) When the king looked in there was a third person in the furnace with the 3 men and no one got burned. God saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and the king ordered all people in all lands to worship the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

**Learning
Activity# 3
Lg. Group**

Story – Adam Raccoon and the Mighty Giant

Instructions: For those children who would like to listen, read the story. Compare King Aren's faithfulness to God's faithfulness and Adam Raccoon's courage to the courage of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

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!