

The Peer Pressure Cooker

Characters:

King Nebuchadnezzar	Shadrach
Official	Meshach
Soldiers (kids)	Abednego
Musicians (kids)	
Flames (kids)	

Instructions: See each lesson for specific instructions to involve the children.

Props: “Hebrew Clothes” for S, M, and A; crown, and robe for King Neb; “Official” robe and scroll for Official; paper flames made in Oasis craft; maybe armor for the soldiers, toy instruments.

Enter Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Shadrach: I wonder why the king has called us all out here to the desert? I’ve never seen so many people gathered like this in one place before.

Meshach: Everybody but Daniel. The King sent him to one of the far provinces this week.

Abednego: Uh Oh! Shadrach, Meshach—I don’t like the look of that!

Meshach & Shadrach: [*Together*] A golden Idol!

Abednego: And the king has his furnace going again. I’ve got a bad feeling about this!

Enter King Neb, Official, and Soldiers. Official steps forward with scroll

Official: (*Reads from scroll in pompous voice*) People, nations, and those of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: When you hear the sound of the horns, flutes, lyres, zithers, harps, pipes, and all kinds of music (*signal the musicians to make their noises*) No, not yet! I haven’t told them what they have to do yet!... you must bow down and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Anyone who doesn’t bow down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace!

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego look startled

Shadrach: We can’t do that! Idol worship is what got our people exiled in the first place! It would break God’s Law!

Meshach: (*weakly*) I guess we get to find out what it’s like to be a burnt offering!

Abednego: It was nice knowing you both!

Official: Musicians--begin!

Musicians should make their noises. Guards and Official bow down and king looks pleased. Then the official looks over at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and points.

Official: Your Exaltedness! SOME of your subjects have not obeyed your command!

Meshach: Should we douse ourselves in barbecue sauce, Abednego?

Abednego: Nah, I'd rather be quick fried than slow roasted

King Neb: Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or the statue of gold I have set up? I will give you one more chance. When you hear the music, if you fall down and worship the golden statue I made, very good. But if you don't you will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace! THEN what god will be able to rescue you?

Shadrach: *(calmly but firmly)* O King; we don't have to defend ourselves to you. If you have us thrown into the furnace the God we serve is able to rescue us!

Meshach: But even if He chooses not to, we want you to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the statue of gold you have set up.

Abednego: Our God is the only TRUE God and only he deserves our worship!

King Neb: Heat the furnace 7 times hotter! *(Flames, hold up the paper cut-outs and wave them)* Soldiers, throw these men into the fiery furnace!

Soldiers should pretend to tie Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego up and throw them in the furnace, and then play dead as if the flames were too hot for them.

King Neb: *(Jumps to his feet and grabs the Official's arm)* What?! Didn't we throw 3 men into the fire?

Official: Certainly, O King!

King Neb: *(Turns the Official and points to the furnace)* Then why are there 4 men walking around in the fire? The 4th one looks like a son of the gods!

King Neb: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out!

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego join the King. The official looks them over and gives them a good sniffing.

Official: *(amazed)* Not a scorch mark on them! They don't even smell like smoke!

King Neb: Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants! They were willing to give up their lives rather than worship any god except their own! (*swells up self-importantly*) Therefore I decree that anyone who says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble!

Shadrach: (*to Meshach, who nods and smiles*) He always wants to overdo everything!

King Neb: Come along, gentlemen. Let's talk about your promotions!

Abednego: (*takes the King's arm*) Great, Your Majesty! But first may I tell you a story about some guys named Moses and Aaron and a certain golden calf?

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