

## Living Your Faith in the Public Sphere (Lesson 3.2)

Ages 10-13

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### Goals

- Equip students with practical ways to boldly demonstrate, embody, and proclaim their faith in their daily lives.
  - Highlight the essence, requirements, and benefits of living a holy lifestyle outside the church.
  - Explore the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as an example of unwavering faith in the face of societal pressures.
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### Welcome Time

- Greet students warmly and engage them in light conversation.
  - Encourage students to share any highlights or challenges from their week.
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### Worship/ Prayer Time [click Here](#)

- Sing two worship songs that focus on courage and faithfulness (e.g., "Oceans" by Hillsong or "Faithful Now" by Vertical Worship).
  - Open with a prayer inviting God's presence and asking for guidance in understanding the lesson.
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### Lesson

#### Introduction (Keep it Short)

- Discuss how today's world is filled with permitted and legalized sin.
  - Explain that as Christians, we are called to live holy lives and stand out for God.
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## Opening Activities

- **Activity: Idol Brainstorming**

- On a whiteboard, ask students to name things that could be considered idols today (e.g., money, fame, technology).
  - Discuss how these things might compete with God for our attention and devotion.
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### Memory Verse

**1 Peter 2:11-12:** “Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”

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## Bible Story: Daniel 3

### BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were three young men taken captive in Babylon, along with Daniel and many others. They were appointed by King Nebuchadnezzar to serve in his court.

In Daniel 3, King Nebuchadnezzar set up a giant image of gold, about 90 feet (27 meters) in height and 9 feet (2.7 meters) in width, on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

He then proclaimed that all people must bow down and worship the image or face immediate punishment by being thrown into a blazing furnace. Everyone obeyed, except for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who chose to obey God and not worship any idol.

Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and warned them that if they refused to bow down and worship his image, they would be thrown into a blazing furnace.

Despite the king's anger, they refused to worship his image of gold. The king ordered them to be thrown into the furnace. God miraculously saved and protected them from the flames, showing Nebuchadnezzar and the entire kingdom that He alone was God and worthy of worship.

## Key Point

- 1. STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH – DANIEL 3:17-18
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  - 2. TRUST IN GOD’S PROTECTION – DANIEL 3:16-18
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  - 3. GOD IS WITH US IN OUR TROUBLE – DANIEL 3:25
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  - 4. THE POWER OF TESTIMONY THROUGH SUFFERING – DANIEL 3:28
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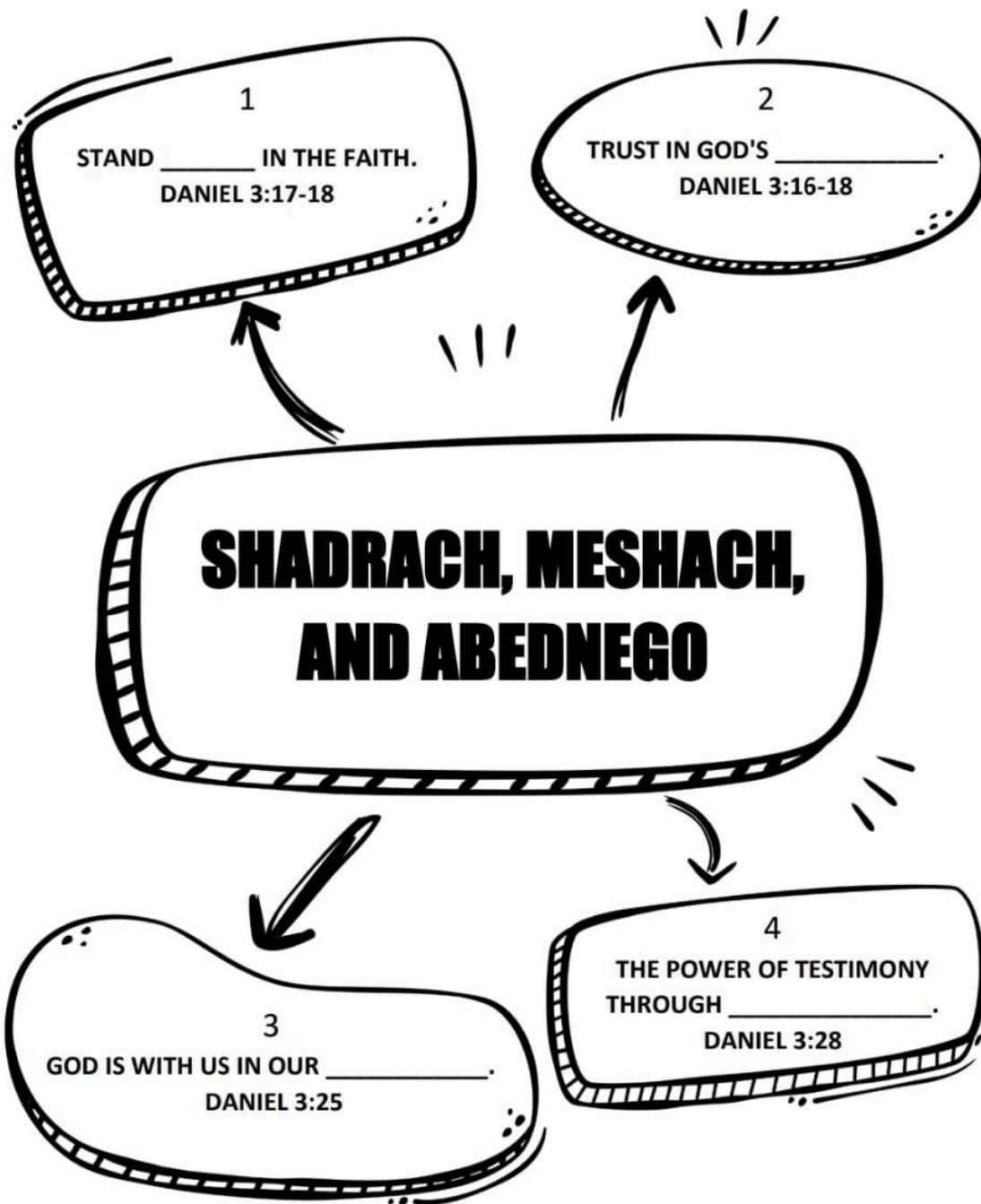
## Discussion Questions

1. What was King Nebuchadnezzar’s decree? (Daniel 3:4-5)
2. Who worshipped the idol? (Daniel 3:7)
3. How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respond? (Daniel 3:16-18)
4. What punishment did they face? (Daniel 3:19-21)
5. What happened to them in the furnace? (Daniel 3:25)
6. What decree did the king make afterward? (Daniel 3:29)
7. What reward did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego receive? (Daniel 3:30)

## Additional Questions:

- What are some modern-day idols?
- How can we resist worshipping these idols?
- How can we boldly declare our faith like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
- What challenges or punishments might we face for living out our faith?
- What are the benefits of living a holy and faithful life?

# STUDY NOTES MIND MAP



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## Conclusion

- Reiterate that Christians are called to be holy because God is holy.
  - Encourage students to let their faith shine in all areas of their lives, not just at church.
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## 4 Gospel Points

1. God is sovereign and deserves our ultimate allegiance.
  2. Faith in God can withstand any trial or pressure.
  3. God's presence is with His people even in the hardest times.
  4. A faithful life can lead others to recognize and glorify God.
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## Activity

**Animation Viewing:** Show a short animated video of Daniel 3 to reinforce the story.

### **Craft: Fiery Furnace Diorama**

- Materials: Shoe boxes, construction paper, glue, markers, and small cutouts of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and the angel.
- Steps:
  1. Line the inside of the shoe box with red and orange construction paper to represent fire.
  2. Draw or use cutouts of the three men and the angel, gluing them inside the box.
  3. Add decorations to depict the scene of the fiery furnace.
  4. Encourage students to take their dioramas home as a reminder of the lesson.

- **BOW OR STAND**

Materials needed: Music, a coin.

Instructions:

Play music and have everyone move or dance around the space.

Stop the music at random intervals. When it stops, players must quickly decide whether to remain standing or bow to the ground.

The leader then flips a coin where one side represents stand and the other bow. All players with the wrong action are out.

Relate the game to real-life scenarios where we must decide to stand firm in faith or bow to pressure.

# TRUE OR FALSE

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the furnace because they stole from the king.		
2. King Nebuchadnezzar created a golden statue that everyone was commanded to worship.		
3. The furnace was heated seven times hotter than usual before Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown inside.		
4. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were rescued from the furnace by Daniel.		
5. King Nebuchadnezzar saw a fourth figure in the furnace with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.		
6. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told the king that their God would save them from the furnace, but even if He did not, they still wouldn't worship the golden statue.		
7. The men who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace were killed by the flames.		
8. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the furnace completely unharmed, without even the smell of smoke on their clothes.		



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**Closing Prayer** [click Here](#)

- Thank God for His faithfulness and protection.
- Pray for courage to live boldly for Him in all areas of life.

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**Snack Time**

- Provide simple snacks like cookies and juice.
- Use this time for informal conversation and relationship-building.

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**Take-Home Activities** [Click Here](#)