



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for April 13, 2008
Released on Wednesday, April 9, 2008**

"Three Friends Took a Stand" (Holding to Your Faith)

MEMORY VERSE:

"Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king" (Daniel 3:17)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Daniel 3:10-13, 16-18, 21, 24

10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

11 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that we should stand for God and hold to our faith regardless of the cost.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. The faith of the three friends was tested.
2. The three friends stood for God even when faced with death.
3. God will not always save us from our trials, but He will always reward faith.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Helping to Remember, you will need three craft sticks for each student, fine-point black markers, glue, and red, orange and black paper.

Make a copy of the word search and lesson review for each student.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

Last week's lesson focused on Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and the beginning of their captivity in Babylon. These young men along with other captives from Judah were brought to Babylon and trained to serve the king.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, along with Daniel, excelled in all their training and were given important positions in Babylon. During their time of service to the king, Nebuchadnezzar had a huge statue (90 feet high by 9 feet wide) created for the people to admire and worship (perhaps of himself). But worship of idols was forbidden for God's people (Exodus 20:3-5), and the young men were once again faced with a test of their faith in God.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

1. Who are the three friends discussed in this week's lesson?

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were young men and friends of the Prophet Daniel who had been taken captive and brought to Babylon. They were of royal birth and considered to be among the most intelligent and the best looking of the children of Judah at the time that Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians invaded Judah. These young men were trained in the language and culture of the Babylonians for a three-year period. At the end of their training, they, along with their friend Daniel, were given top-level positions in King Nebuchadnezzar's administration and became advisers to the king.

2. What was the decree issued by King Nebuchadnezzar?

Nebuchadnezzar had a huge statue of gold set up in Babylon and gathered all the leaders together for a dedication service (Daniel 3:3-4). An official order or decree was issued that everyone was to fall down and worship the image when the orchestra began to play.

There would be a penalty for anyone who did not obey the decree. Those who ignored the command would be cast into a burning furnace. At the sound of the musical instruments, all were to fall down and worship or be cast into a fiery furnace.

3. What accusations did some of the Babylonians bring against the three friends?

Some of the Babylonians noticed that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not bow to the image and brought this to the king's attention. The accusation consisted of three details.

First, they said that these Jews showed no regard for the king himself. The king was told that these young men did not show him the proper respect. Second, they did not serve the king's gods. Third was their actual refusal to bow to the golden image, as they were required to do. These accusations got the results that the Babylonians hoped for – the king reacted in "rage and fury" (Daniel 3:13) and ordered that the young men be brought to him.

4. When offered a second chance, how did the young men respond to the king's decree?

When the young men stood before the king, he offered them a second chance. The king asked them if what he had been told was true, and without waiting for a response, told them that he would have the musicians play again and if they bowed, they would be spared from the fiery furnace.

The three friends admitted that they had not bowed to the golden image. They told the king that they would not try to defend themselves. They believed that God would defend them. The young men took a stand. They would not bow to the image. They believed that God would save them. But even if God did not save them, they would still not worship the image.

5. What was the outcome of the king's punishment for the three young men?

Nebuchadnezzar ordered that the fire in the furnace be heated seven times hotter than normal (Daniel 3:19). The young men were tied up and thrown into this overheated furnace. The furnace was so hot that the heat killed the soldiers who threw the three into the fire. But the three young men fell to the bottom of the furnace unharmed. The level of heat had no effect on them – they were protected by God.

The king could not believe what he saw – not only were the three safe and walking around in the fire, but the king saw a fourth man with them who he described as being "like the Son of God" (Daniel 3:25).

The king called them out of the furnace, and everyone could see that the fire had not harmed them. Their hair and clothes were not singed, and they did not even smell of smoke.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

If you have ever had even a small burn, you know how painful it is. Can you imagine how it would feel to be thrown into a burning furnace? Anybody would be terrified of being thrown into a roaring fire. Faced with the command to bow to an idol or burn, what would we do?

The friends were willing to die in the fire if that was God's will for them. They would face death rather than disobey God. The faith of these three was truly amazing. They took a stand and were faithful to the point of death.

We can have the same kind of faith as these three. God does not save us from every trial, but He always rewards our faith. Will you take a stand? Will you follow the example of these three young men and obey God, regardless of the cost?

HELPING TO REMEMBER (ACTIVITIES):

Use the following activities, or create your own, to emphasize the key points of the lesson: Each student should draw faces on three craft sticks. Then cut out flames from the red and orange construction paper. Glue the three craft sticks and the flames to the black paper. Print "Three Friends Took a Stand for God" on the flames. Discuss the pictures and what they mean.

Repeat the memory verse and let each child practice saying the verse.

A word search containing key words from the lesson and a lesson review are included at the end of this summary.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king" (Daniel 3:17).

The three friends knew God could save them. God is more powerful than any king or any fiery furnace. The three young men in our lesson are examples of how we should stand for God regardless of the cost. God is able to deliver us from any situation, and we should always put our trust in God. Even if He does not deliver us, we must still trust and hold to our faith in God.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson, "Daniel Faced the Lions," again focuses on the Prophet Daniel. Another decree tests the faith of Daniel, and we are given yet another example of staying faithful to God. To prepare, read Daniel 6:1-28.

Lesson Summarized By:

Renee Little

Jesus Is All Ministries

www.jesusisall.com

LESSON REVIEW
Three Friends Took a Stand
(Daniel 3:10-13, 16-18, 21, 24)

Unscramble the letters to answer the following questions.

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|---------------|----|--|
| Y N E N T I | 1 | How tall (in feet) was the king's golden statue? (Daniel 3:1) |
| R E E E C D | 2 | An official order, command or law. (Daniel 3:10) |
| C I S M U | 3 | What would everyone hear as a signal to bow down and worship the golden image? |
| Y F E R I | 4 | Those who refused to bow down and worship the image would be thrown into a _____ furnace. (Daniel 3:11) |
| L Y B N O A B | 5 | What was the name of the country that King Nebuchadnezzar ruled over? (Daniel 3:12) |
| A E M H H S C | 6 | The 3 young men who refused to worship the image were Shadrach, _____ and Abednego. (Daniel 3:12) |
| V I R L E D E | 7 | The young men believed that God was able to _____ them from the fiery furnace. (Daniel 3:17) |
| T I F H A | 8 | The 3 young men took a stand and held to their _____ in God. |
| E S N V E | 9 | The king ordered the furnace heated _____ times hotter than normal. (Daniel 3:19) |
| O R F U | 10 | They threw only three into the furnace, but the king saw _____ walking around in the fire. (Daniel 3:25) |

WORD SEARCH
Three Friends Took a Stand
(Daniel 3:10-13, 16-18, 21, 24)

Find each of the following words.

FURNACE

FIERY

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

STAND

MESHACH

BOUND

FAITH

MUSIC

IMAGE

ABEDNEGO

DECREE

DELIVER

SHADRACH

WORSHIP

BABYLON

KING

A U O D H U H I I D G E E R E B G N L D F C A S C
G H R A Z Z E N D A H C U B E N A O G B Y B E S I
L W S R E G A M I S S H C B B B C L E A F U A A I
N S H A D R A C H A C E F A N F I Y M F F T R I N
A B N E B O M G C A N S A E I S C B Z H N C A N O
B E O I U O H O H N D A E S D A A A O B K A C A A
S D B A C D E S E Y N Z I W M R B B D R E S B E R
Z E B L R N E D E D A N Y W A A D E N M U S I C M
T L L O I M R E F R T O H G N I K G D E U S E A T
P S T R U N C A N F S R E V I L E D C N Z G L R H
D A M F A N E F U H I N D D R R D A N R E D D A H
M S Z A H M D I S P F I E R Y E N D I U E G Z N G
L N D I A S U N M B E D A Y I R E H R I C Z O A F
V H H T S C W O R S H I P M U R C H Y A I E A M N
C D G H E I E H C D E Z B F A N O C S N E R E G R
N T M B K H S P Y H E O S N E S E H E V N R N N S

Word Search Solution
Three Friends Took a Stand
(Daniel 3:10-13, 16-18, 21, 24)

N
 R A Z Z E N D A H C U B E N O
 E G A M I H L
 S H A D R A C H C Y
 A B
 H D A A
 E S N B B
 B E A E M U S I C
 O M R T G N I K D E
 U C S R E V I L E D C N
 F N E A E
 A D F I E R Y N G
 I R O
 T W O R S H I P U
 H F

Answers to Lesson Review for
 "Three Friends Took a Stand" (Daniel 3:10-13, 16-18, 21, 24)

- 1 - ninety
- 2 - decree
- 3 - music
- 4 - fiery
- 5 - Babylon
- 6 - Meshach
- 7 - deliver
- 8 - faith
- 9 - seven
- 10 - four