



Lesson 9:

THREE BRAVE FRIENDS

PARENTAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED!



TEACHING GOAL: In hard times, stand firm for God.

1. Play theme song
2. Pray
3. Review last lesson
4. Lesson and discussion
5. Memorize: **Do what is right; in God's sight.**
6. Close in prayer

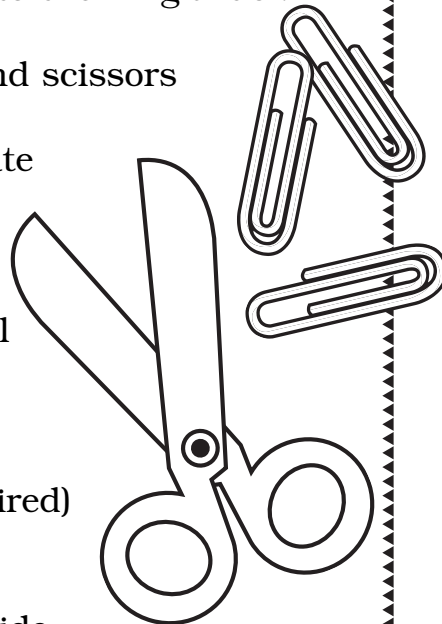


SCRIPTURE: Daniel 1 Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego take a stand to not eat from the king's table. God blesses all four.

Daniel 3 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the fire for not praying to the king's idol.



MATERIALS: Corrugated cardboard and scissors or utility knife
 Gingerbread man template
 Shallow dish
 Clothes hanger (metal)
 Three paper clips
 2 ounces rubbing alcohol (70% isopropyl)
 1 ounce water
 Matches or lighter
 (Parent supervision required)
 Tongs



NOTE: This activity will not work well outside because of the wind. It will work in the garage.

Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A Big Idea

In advance read Daniel 1 and Daniel 3. Start by telling the story from Daniel 1. Tell the story in your own words, highlighting the following key points:

DANIEL 1

- Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were boys from royal families who had been captured and taken to another country called Babylon. These four boys were some of the few survivors of the war between the Israelites and Babylonians. Most of their friends and family members were most likely dead.
- King Nebuchadnezzar selected the four boys to receive a special education and special food. They had been treated as prisoners, and now they were being offered the best teaching and food in the country.
- Daniel thought it would go against their belief in God to eat the king's food, so he asked for permission not to eat it. Refusing to eat the king's food could have gotten Daniel and the other boys killed!
- God caused the Babylonian officials to show favor to the boys, and they were allowed to eat their special diet. God blessed them with strength and knowledge.

The four boys chose to do what was right even though they could be put in jail or even killed for disobeying the king. We are going to be talking about times at school and in our family when we may be tempted to do something wrong, but we need to do what is right and follow God.

Tell the story from Daniel 3 in your own words, highlighting the following key points:

DANIEL 3

- King Nebuchadnezzar made a 90-foot-high gold idol and commanded everyone to bow down and worship the idol. If people didn't bow down then they would be thrown into a fiery furnace.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down

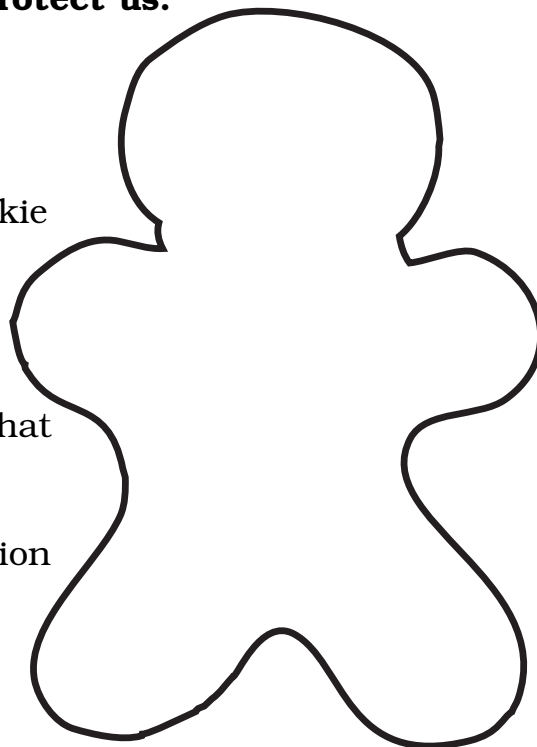
and worship the idol. The boys said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” (Daniel 3:16-18)

- The king was furious and had the three boys thrown into the fiery furnace.
- The soldiers who threw the boys into the furnace were killed by the fire but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not burned or harmed.
- An angel joined the three boys in the fire.
- Nebuchadnezzar brought the boys out of the fire and said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.” Then the boys were promoted and given more honor in Babylon.

Again, the three boys chose to do what was right and follow God even though it meant they could be hurt or killed. The boys were not sure God would choose to save their lives. When we stand for what is right we might get hurt or God may choose to protect us.

B Activity

Cut out three “gingerbread cookie shaped” people from a piece of corrugated cardboard. Label the three cardboard-people Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Prepare a solution that is 2 oz. rubbing alcohol (70% isopropyl) and 1 oz. water. Mix together well and put the solution on a shallow dish. Let the “people” soak in the solution. After mixing the alcohol and water move quickly before the alcohol evaporates.



GINGERBREAD MAN TEMPLATE

Using the paper clips, attach the three wet cardboard-people to the hanger. Hold the top of the hanger with the tongs so that you can keep your body away from the fire. Remove any remaining alcohol solution and hold the hanger over a sink or safe area. Be sure to have water or a fire extinguisher close. **PARENTAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED.** Using a lighter, light the three cardboard-people. They will be consumed in fire but will not burn. Make sure the fire is out before touching the cardboard-people. The people will not be harmed by the fire.

This activity models the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who were put in the furnace but thanks to God and his angel they were not harmed by the fire.

Application

The king told Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to eat from the king's table but they refused because they believed God wouldn't want them to. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego also refused to bow down and worship the gold idol because they would only worship God.



In both cases the boys faced negative consequences for doing what was right. Think of some times when you may be asked to take a stand for God even if you might face negative consequences.

EXAMPLES:

Stand for What is Right	Negative Consequences
Friends your age are watching a movie that your parents won't let you see. You choose to obey your parents.	Kids laugh at you or say you're not "cool."
You break something important in your home. Instead of waiting for your parents to find out or denying that you were involved, you go to your parents and tell them what you did.	Your parents may be mad. You may have to replace the broken item.
You sit in a desk next to an unpopular girl at school. Instead of ignoring the girl, you talk with her and go out of your way to be nice.	Other kids laugh at you and may consider you to be unpopular.
You find out your friend doesn't go to church so you invite him to go with you to your youth group.	Other kids may make fun of you for going to church.

Look at our list. It can seem hard to take a stand but in most cases, it doesn't cost us much to do what is right. Compare our consequences to those facing Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Kids will laugh at us—they could have been thrown in jail. Kids may not think we are popular—they could have been burned in the furnace.

We need to keep in mind that it costs us very little to stand for God in our country. In other parts of the world, people are put in prison, hurt, or even killed for believing in God. We need to thank God for our freedom to be Christians and stand for God anytime we are given an opportunity.