

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **April 30, 2023** Family Theme | **Standing Against Idolatry**
Study Text | **Daniel 3:1-30**

Objective: Family members choose to honor God even when it may cost us.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events in the book of Daniel took place during the time when God's people had been taken into captivity by the Babylonians and later the Medo-Persians from 605 BC to 536 BC.

Bible Basics: Memorize Luke 4:8b this week along with family members.

Read the Word: Daniel 3:1-30

Disciple Your Kids:

Discuss with family members how choosing to follow God may cause us to face ridicule and bad treatment by some who are lost.



Key Truth: Following the One True God May Put Us in the Minority (Daniel 3:1-12)

- King Nebuchadnezzar commanded the construction of an enormous image all of gold — 90 feet tall. He gathered officials from all the provinces, nations, and languages over which he ruled and instructed them to bow before the golden idol when they heard the sound of music being played. Those who did not bow would be thrown into the fiery furnace. Almost everyone bowed before the idol (verses 1-7).
- Jealous officials reported Daniel's companions, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they stayed true to God instead of bowing to the idol. They did what was right, even though they were alone in their stand for God (verses 8-12).



Key Truth: Following the One True God May Put Us at Risk (Daniel 3:13-23)

- Furious that they had not bowed before his idolatrous image, Nebuchadnezzar gave the order to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, before him. He gave them another chance to bow. Their response enraged him. They said their God could deliver them, but they would not bow in idolatry, even if God did not deliver them (verses 13-18).
- The king ordered the furnace heated to the maximum extent, and ordered that the three Israelites be thrown in. The men who threw them in died in the heat and flames. The Israelites honored God even when it put them at risk (verses 19-23).



Key Truth: Choosing to Be True to God Is a Witness to Those Around Us (Daniel 3:24-30)

- The king saw four figures moving around in the fire instead of three, and one had a god-like appearance. Amazed, he called for the three Israelites to come out of the furnace. They were examined and found to be completely unharmed. God protected His servants in a clearly miraculous way (verses 24-27).
- Nebuchadnezzar recognized that the God of the Hebrews was the Most High God, even if he believed there were other gods. He decreed that no one should speak against this God who alone is able to rescue His people in such a way. He then promoted the three Israelites (verses 28-30).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What is idolatry?**
- **Give some examples of idols in our culture.**
- What are some costs or problems believers may face because they choose to follow and obey the Lord instead of doing what our culture says to do?
- How do our choices serve as a witness to those around us?
- In what way do you need to do what is right this week even though it may cost you?
- **How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stand against idolatry?**
- **How did God protect the three men?**
- **What are some situations where you might have to stand against idolatry?**

Everyday Extras

Make a shadow box with your children by cutting a window in a pasteboard box and covering it with parchment paper. When a small lamp or flashlight shines from inside the back of the box, you can see what is happening in the window. This is a perfect set-up for re-enacting the account of the fiery furnace. Cut and color flames (or crumple colored tissue paper) to put near the inside of the window. Cut out the shapes of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and tape them to popsicle sticks. Also cut out one more man's shape to represent the Son of God; tape it to a popsicle stick too. Ask your children to retell the story with their puppets, adding the fourth figure in the furnace. Remind them that Jesus is with us, too, even when we don't see Him, even in the most difficult times.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Daniel and his three friends made choices that showed they only lived for the one, true God. They refused to eat the king's food that was also given to false gods, and God made them stronger and healthier. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow to the king's statue even if it meant they would be punished. **I Can Live for God** just like they did.