



Family Lesson 45

Principle: Trusting God no matter what the consequences.

Bible Character(s): Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego

Scripture Reference: Daniel 1, 3

- 1. Worship** - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!
- 2. Skit Video** - Watch the [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.
- 3. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

What did we learn about last week? (We learned that God allowed Satan to test Job's faith.)
What happened to Job? (Job suffered a lot, losing everything he had, including his sons and daughters. He became really sick.) **Through all of this suffering, what did Job think about God?** (Job still trusted and believed in God, and his relationship with God grew stronger.) **God is good and sovereign. God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to suffer and die for us. We can live eternally with him if we put our faith and trust in him. We can trust him completely, even if we do not understand what is going on, because he has a plan for each one of us.**

Today we are going to study from the book of Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar took over the nation of Israel and made it part of his Babylonian Empire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were young and talented Israelites. They loved and served God. King Nebuchadnezzar ordered young men from royal families to be brought to Babylon as servants. They would be trained for three years before entering the royal service.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Daniel 1 [NLT].

Daniel 1:6-7, 18-20

⁶ Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah. ⁷ The chief of staff renamed them with these Babylonian names:

*Daniel was called Belteshazzar.
Hananiah was called Shadrach.
Mishael was called Meshach.
Azariah was called Abednego.*

¹⁸ When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁹ The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service. ²⁰ Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were forced to live over 1,000 miles away from their home, change their names, learn a new way of life, study about Babylonian culture, and serve Nebuchadnezzar in high government positions. They obeyed King Nebuchadnezzar because they knew that God was in control, and God had placed him in authority over them.

Can you imagine if a different country took over America and our whole way of life had to change? Everyone would have to learn a new language and serve a different leader. Would you be able to serve and obey someone who had just taken over your country, changed your name, and forced you to learn a whole new way of life? (Allow responses.) It would be very hard to obey.

While Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are living in Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar has a gold statue made that is 90 feet tall and nine feet wide. He calls all of the royal rulers, governors, and officials to come to a special gathering to honor the statue he has set up.

Let's read the Bible to see what the people are asked to do.

Daniel 2:4-6

⁴ Then a herald shouted out, "People of all races and nations and languages, listen to the king's command! ⁵ When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue. ⁶ Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

King Nebuchadnezzar wants to make sure that everyone is loyal to him. He commands them to bow down to this idol to show that they are loyal to him. What will happen to anyone who does not bow to the statue? (Allow responses.) King Nebuchadnezzar says he will throw them into the furnace to kill them.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worship and obey God—the one true God—but they are asked to worship a gold statue of King Nebuchadnezzar.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego have obeyed everything asked of them to this point. They moved, changed their names, and served the king in everything he commanded. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego have obeyed because they worship God and scripture tells them to obey authority placed over them.

But is there any time that it is okay to disobey authority? (Allow responses.) Yes, if someone tries to make you worship anything other than God. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego know that God said, "You must not have any other god but me." (Exodus 20:3) King Nebuchadnezzar's rule will force them to break God's command. They know that God is the true God. They must follow his commands and not bow down to King

Nebuchadnezzar's god. How do they know? Because they know God's rules.

How can we know God's commands? By studying the Bible at church and reading the Bible on our own. It shows us how to live and make the right decisions. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego know that God has commanded them not to worship any god but him. We should always make the choice to worship our true God and not turn from him to worship anything else. King Nebuchadnezzar finds out that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to worship the gold statue he made. He becomes very angry and brings them all before him.

Let's keep reading the Bible and see what happens when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do not bow to King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue.

Daniel 3:14-18

¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? ¹⁵ I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. ¹⁸ But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

King Nebuchadnezzar orders that the blazing furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. He has Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego tied together before they are thrown into the furnace. The furnace is so hot that the men who throw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the furnace are killed!

Let's read the Bible to see what happens to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Daniel 3:23-28

²³ So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell into the roaring flames.

²⁴ But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?"

"Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did," they replied.

²⁵ "Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!"

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire. ²⁷ Then the high officers, officials, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. They defied the king's command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

What does the king see when he looks in the furnace? (Allow responses.) **Four men are walking around. When they come out of the fire, what do the king and the officials notice? (Allow responses.) Not one hair is burned! Who does King Nebuchadnezzar praise? (Allow responses.) He praises the one true God after seeing what happens! Isn't that amazing? He then says that no one can speak a word against God. King Nebuchadnezzar goes from making everyone worship him to praising the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and telling others to praise the true God! Because Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trust God, Nebuchadnezzar comes to recognize God's greatness.**

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to give us courage to trust and obey in him because he is with us always.

Activity

Trusting God

The purpose is to reinforce the principle that we should trust God no matter what happens.

Supplies:

Situations guide found on the [Kids Resource Page](#)

Read through the situations and have your child give an example of how we can trust and obey God in each situation.

Tie It Together

In everything we do, we know that God is good and is in control. He was in control of Esther's life when her family died and she had to move from home and become queen of Persia. God was in control of Job's life when he lost everything he had. God was in control of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's lives when he allowed the King to throw them into the furnace. God is in control of everything in our lives too. Things that we do not like will happen, but we can be thankful that God is good and in control of each situation. We can trust that he knows why they happen and has a plan for our lives, even during the hard times. God wants us to be obedient to him and trust in his plan, even if it means we have to go through some type of suffering.

Additional Optional Activity

Change Your Name and Coloring Sheet

The purpose is to show the campers how hard it would be to become a part of another culture.

Supplies:

Worksheet - English to Arabic alphabet side found on the [Kids Resource Page](#)

Have your child try to write their names using the English to Arabic alphabet table on the left.

Tie It Together

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted that God was in control of everything. They knew that God had placed Nebuchadnezzar as king over them. It was not easy for them to live in a different culture. It's hard to learn a new language and live away from your home. We just saw how hard it is to write our name in a strange language. They did not understand why this was happening to them, yet they trusted God and obeyed the authority he placed over them.

Blindfolded Sit

The purpose is to show that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God enough to be willing to die in order to obey him.

Supplies:

Bandana

Tell your child that you are going to stand behind them, one at a time, and catch them as they fall backward. Put a blindfold on your child, stand behind him/her, and tell him/her to fall back. If your child is hesitant, assure them that they won't fall because you'll catch them.

Tie It Together

Was it hard to trust that I was behind you and ready to catch you? You trusted me enough to follow the directions I gave you, even if you were worried. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God completely and knew that he was in control of everything. They trusted that God's plan was best. They followed God's directions, even if that meant death, because they knew that whatever happened, God was in control. They believed so strongly in God, they were willing to die in order to obey his commandments. They did not know for sure that God would save them from the fire. They knew it might be God's will for them to die.

