


# BOOK of DANIEL



## Courage in Culture

### THE THEME

Courage in Culture

### MEMORY VERSE

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

- James 4:10, NIV

### CHALLENGE VERSE

“Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.”

- 1 Samuel 12:24, ESV

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## OCTOBER 15 - LIFE APPLICATION

“Be faithful in the fire.”

## Note to Parents

For the next three months, we will be learning about the **Book of Daniel** and how we can have “**Courage in Culture.**” The life application this week is “**Be Faithful in the Fire.**”

Before talking with your kids, read and familiarize yourself with what happens in **Daniel 3**. We all have times in our lives where our faith is challenged. **How can we remain faithful even when we are under fire?**

### REVIEW

In **Daniel 2**, how did Daniel use the gifts God gave him to win favor with King Nebuchadnezzar? (*Daniel was faithful and approached the king to offer to help so that the wise men, including he and his friends, would not be killed. He was able to interpret the king’s dreams when no one else could do it, and the king gave Daniel and his friends great authority.*)

### THIS WEEK:

1. Read or tell what happened in **Daniel 3:1-7**, when King Nebuchadnezzar had a huge golden image built and set up in Babylon. **Ask: What did he command the people to do? (Verses 4-6: Whenever they heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, they were to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.)**
2. **What would happen to anyone who did not do this?** (*They would be thrown into the fiery furnace.*)
3. Now read or tell what happened in **verses 8-17**. Daniel’s friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were accused of not obeying the king’s decree to worship the idol and other gods. **What did the king do?** (*Read aloud verse 15. He had them brought before him and warned them about what would happen if they disobeyed his decree.*) Read the last sentence. King Nebuchadnezzar was even challenging their faith that God would help them!
4. **How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answer the king? (Verses 16-18: They declared that the God that they served was able to deliver them, even from a fiery furnace. And even if he did not, they would never serve the king’s gods or worship the golden image.) What did the king do when they said**

**this? (Verses 18-23:** *He was very angry. He ordered the heat in the fire to be seven times more than usual, and ordered some of his mighty men to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and toss them into the fire. The fire was so hot that the men who tossed them into the fire were killed by the heat.)*

5. In **verses 24, 25** the king was astonished, completely surprised. **What did he see?** (*Four men walking in the fire, unbound!*) **What did the fourth man look like?** (*Like a son of the gods.*) **Who could that have been in the fire with them?** (*We believe it was Jesus!*)
6. The king ordered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to come out of the fire (**Verse 26**). They were not harmed at all and their hair and clothes were not burned! Let's read what the king said and what happened to Daniel's friends because of their obedience to God:

*28 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside[f] the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.*

Because of their great faith and obedience to God, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were promoted by the king and he knew that their God was powerful!

## **FAMILY CHALLENGE**

*Choose one or more of these activities to "bring home" what we can learn from this true Bible story.*

1. Say: Our Life Application this week is to **"Be Faithful in the Fire."** Because of their great faith, Daniel's friends were protected by God and also promoted by King Nebuchadnezzar. **Do you ever have times where you have to show faith that God is in control and that He will be with you, no matter what happens?** Discuss together.
2. Daniel and his friends knew that there would be many times they would be challenged while in Babylon. But, they decided ahead of time to obey God and to have faith in God no matter what. **How can we obey God?**

- **Know the ten commandments.** Daniel and his friends did, and this helped them make wise choices that honored God. There could be no other God but God! And no graven images can ever be made by human hands to be worshiped. One of the commandments is to worship no other god before our God.
  - **Know that God is able to do anything** - to deliver us, protect us, and be with us no matter what happens.
  - **Know that God is with us in the fires we face in our lives.** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that God was able, but trusted Him even if he did NOT deliver them from the fire, that He would use it all for good.
  - **Sometimes, our prayers are not answered - but we can still trust God.** Faith is trusting God no matter what the results may be. Good or bad.
  - **Make decisions based on your principles, not convenience.** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did this. When you choose to honor God, He will honor you.
3. Together, watch **“Superbook: The Fiery Furnace!”** Not everyone learns in the same way, and some kids (and adults) are visual learners and will better understand by watching the story on video (available on Youtube). We have found the Superbook videos to be very helpful. Be sure and discuss afterward!

## PRAYER

*Dear God, we know there will be times where we are “in the fire” and have to decide to honor and obey You, no matter what happens. Help us to be faithful in the fire and remember that You are with us and You are able to do great things! In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*