

FAITH IN THE FIERY FURNACE

Daniel 3:19 - 28

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 43:1 - 7

Background Scripture: Daniel 3:1 - 30

LESSON AIMS: the students will:

- Recall the names of the three whom God rescued from the fiery furnace
- Summarize the reasons for Nebuchadnezzar’s changes in attitude
- Commit to bearing faithful witness to God in facing a personal “fiery furnace”

INTRODUCTION: It is difficult to stand by one’s personal convictions when one is threatened by extreme consequences for doing so. For whom, or for what, are we willing to stand or risk our lives. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, made a giant golden statue and commanded that everyone bow down and worship it. While this wouldn’t have been an issue for Babylonians, Judeans in exile were prohibited from participation in this ritual. The three men declared their faithfulness to God above all. Enemies of three young Hebrew men, notified officials that they were not complying with the command. These men show us how to face the fires of life with faith in God.

KEY VERSE *28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.*
Daniel 3:28 / KJV

LESSON:

Royal Anger

Daniel 3:19 - 23

Divine Presence

verses 24 - 28

SUMMARY: This episode in the lives of believers in God shows the strength and power of faith over all of the most powerful governments recorded in human history. Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego declared their faith in God despite Nebuchadnezzar's threats. An unbeliever might have thought the Hebrews were out of their minds for being so determined to risk their lives to resist the decree. Faith, however, pays off. God showed His power remarkably. The Hebrews believed in the power of God - - belief that He can do anything. Faith says that God can do anything despite the odds against Him. The king was surprised that God could rescue His people, but the three Hebrew men knew that their God could deliver them.

QUESTIONS:

1. *How has God made His presence known to you in times of danger or distress?*
2. *If you could not verbally proclaim your faith, what evidence could others provide that you are a servant of the Most High God?*
3. *What false gods does our society expect us to worship?*

FAITH IN THE FIERY FURNACE

Daniel 3:19 - 28

DAY / DATE	SCRIPTURE	
<i>Mon., Feb. 5th</i>	Misdirected Worship	Daniel 3:1 - 7
<i>Tue., Feb. 6th</i>	Defying an Immoral Command	Daniel 3:8 - 18
<i>Wed., Feb. 7th</i>	Works That Proclaim Truth	John 10:24 - 38
<i>Thurs., Feb. 8th</i>	When Faith Comes Under Fire	Acts 4:7 - 20
<i>Fri., Feb. 9th</i>	We Must Obey God Alone	Acts 5:17 - 29
<i>Sat., Feb. 10th</i>	You Will Not Be Burned	Isaiah 43:1 - 7
<i>Sun., Feb. 11th</i>	Delivered from the Flames	Daniel 3:19 - 28a