



LESSON 45

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Trusting God no matter what the consequences.

Bible Character(s): Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego

Scripture Reference: Daniel 1, 3



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read through Daniel 1 and

3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego believed and trusted in God's sovereignty. They were willing to lose everything in order to follow God, trusting that, whether they lived or died, God was in control. Is your life characterized by a deep trust and belief in God? We will probably never be asked to sacrifice our physical lives, but are you willing to sacrifice your time, money and possessions? Is your belief and trust in a sovereign God stronger than your desire to live a certain kind of life? When we choose to follow Christ, we are not promised lives without struggles and hardships. Are you willing to trust that God is sovereign, even in the heat of the furnace?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Coloring Sheet

Have campers color the Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego side of their worksheets.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

***Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we begin our study of Daniel. We will look at what it means to obey the authority placed over

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us by trusting that God is in control of everything. We will also discover when we can disobey that authority and how to trust God with the consequences of a decision like this.



SMALL GROUP TIME - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group? (Respect and obey those in authority over us unless they ask us to go against God; obeying those in authority is the same as obeying God.) **What did the staff member say he was working on?** (Cleaning toilets.) **Did he complain when he was asked to do that job?** (No, he obeyed even though he didn't know why.) **When did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not obey the king?**

Last week, what did we learn about? (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. At this time, King Nebuchadnezzar took over the nation of Israel and made it part of his Babylonian Empire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were Israelites who were young and very talented. They loved and served God. King Nebuchadnezzar ordered young men from royal families to be brought to Babylon as captives to serve him. They would be trained for three years before they would enter the royal service.

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

Daniel 1:6-7, 18-20

6 Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, 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.

Mishaël 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, Mishaël, 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 Iraq took over America and our whole way of life had to change? Women would have to wear veils in public, and everyone would have to learn a new language and serve an Iraqi 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.

Change Your Name



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 (1 per camper)

Have the campers turn to the back of their coloring sheets from earlier, and have them 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.

King Nebuchadnezzar had a gold statue made that was 90 feet tall and nine feet wide. He called all of the royal rulers, governors and officials to come to a special gathering to honor the statue he had set up.

Let's read the Bible to see what the people were 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 wanted to make sure that everyone was loyal to him. He commanded them to bow down to this idol, to show that they were loyal to him. What would happen to anyone who did not bow to the statue? (Allow responses.) King Nebuchadnezzar said he would throw them into the furnace to kill them.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worshiped and obeyed God – the one true God – but they were asked to worship a gold statue of King Nebuchadnezzar.

Let's take a closer look at this.

Decision Point



The purpose is to discuss Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's choice to obey or disobey Nebuchadnezzar. We will also talk about how these three men came to their decision.

Supplies:

Road signs – Daniel 2:5, Exodus 20:3 (1 set per bin)

You can just hold up the two signs as you discuss Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's choice to make or you can tape them to the white board and draw a "fork in the road" to better illustrate the choices as you talk through the Tie It Together.

Tie It Together



Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego 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 obeyed because they worshiped God and scripture told 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 else besides God. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that God said, "You must not have any other god but me." (Exodus 20:3) King Nebuchadnezzar's rule would force them to break God's command. They knew that God is the true God. They must follow His commands and not bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's god. How did they know? Because they knew God's rules.

How can we know God's commands? By studying the Bible here in Camp Grace and reading the Bible on our own. It shows us how to live and how to make the right decisions. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that God had 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 found out that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship the gold statue he made. He became very angry, and brought them all before him.

Let's keep reading the Bible and see what happened when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did 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.”

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 (1 per bin)

Tell the campers that you are going to stand behind them, one at a time, and catch them as they fall backward. Put a blindfold on the first camper, stand behind him/her, and tell him/her to fall back. Repeat with all or many of the campers. If the campers are 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 is 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.

King Nebuchadnezzar ordered that the blazing furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. He had Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego tied together before they were thrown into the furnace. The furnace was so hot that the men who threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the furnace were killed!

Let’s read the Bible to see what happened 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 did the king see when he looked in the furnace? (Allow responses.) Four men, walking around. When they came out of the fire, what did the king and the officials notice? (Allow responses.) Not one hair was burned! Who did King Nebuchadnezzar praise? (Allow responses.) He praised the one true God after seeing what happened! Isn’t that amazing? He then said that no one could speak a word against God. King Nebuchadnezzar went from having 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 trusted God, Nebuchadnezzar came to recognize God’s greatness.

Trusting God



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

Supplies:

Situations guide (2 per bin)

Read through the situations and have the campers given 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.

Prayer Time

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.



2801 Pelham Rd. Greenville SC 29615 Ph: 864.284.0122 Fx: 864.284.0222