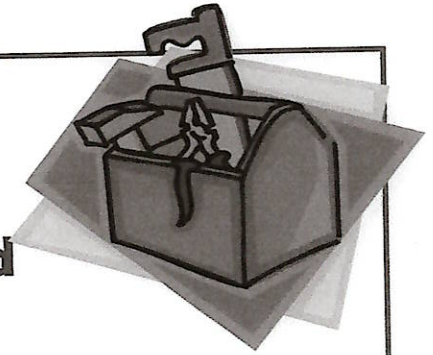


Lesson 2

# Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego



**Theme:** Faith — Trusting God in all circumstances

## Sunday Morning Lesson

### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Nail Down the Bible Facts (See page 7 of this Guide)

**Memory Verse:** Write the Memory Verse as words or phrases on several sticky notes. Stick each note on a student's shirt. Have students form a line and put themselves in order to arrange the Memory Verse. For older students, place the sticky notes on their backs so they must work together to complete the project. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Talk briefly about the meaning of the verse and how it relates to the quarter's study.

### Prayer

### Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Daniel 3:16-18. Have reading students find and mark Daniel 3:16 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by asking a student to show Babylon on a map.
5. Introduce Lesson Graphics using the "Build Your Life for God Tool Apron" as described on page 8 of this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Building Your Life for God Lesson Graphics* and other props such as matches and vegetables.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to your age group:
  - In Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar brought in some of the best and smartest young Israelite men to serve in his palace.
  - Four of the young men—Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—loved and obeyed God, so God gave them knowledge and understanding.

- With the prayers of his friends and power from God, Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
  - Nebuchadnezzar made Daniel ruler over the city of Babylon and towns around it, and he made Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Daniel's helpers.
  - Nebuchadnezzar had a huge golden idol made, and when his special music was played, Nebuchadnezzar ordered everyone to bow to the idol or be thrown into a fiery furnace.
  - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's idol because their faith was in our true living God.
  - Nebuchadnezzar had Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into the fiery furnace, but God saved them from harm.
  - Nebuchadnezzar recognized God as a real and true God and gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego better jobs.
  - We can have faith and trust in God like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
8. This is a lesson that everyone loves! It has a great story with some lessons that are especially relevant for kids. Load up the "Build Your Life for God Tool Apron" with lesson graphics, perhaps some baby carrots for the vegetable-only segment, and some matches. Tell the story of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego — their captivity, obedience to God, Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and the fiery furnace. Use the matches to demonstrate the smell of fire as you talk about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not having any fire smell at all on their clothes. Read aloud together Daniel 3:16-18 at the appropriate time in story.
9. For older students enthusiastically read the entire story from the Bible.
10. Play "Riveting Riddles" with Lesson 1 riddles.

### Reading Scripture

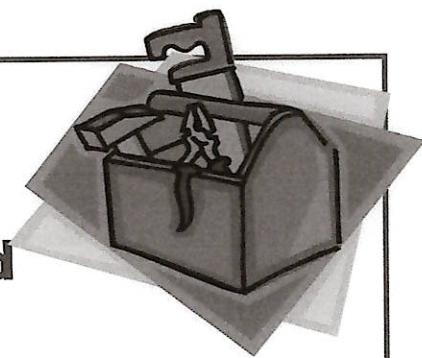
God's Word is living and active (Hebrews 4:12). We should not underestimate its ability to impact our lives. Several lessons in the *Building Your Life for God* series contain familiar and great stories from the Bible. Generally, it is more effective to tell the Bible stories to children. The teacher has a wonderful opportunity to relate the Bible story to her students while teaching them the main points and applicable lessons. It may be effective during this series to read more from the Bible itself, using a student-friendly version such as the New International Readers Version. Give careful consideration to reading selected verses determined by the students' ages. Practice reading so you can read efficiently and enthusiastically.

### Things to Get or Do for Sunday Morning

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*Lesson 2*

# Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego



**Theme:** Faith — Trusting God in all circumstances

## Wednesday Night Lesson

### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Nail Down the Bible Facts (See page 7 of this Guide)

**Memory Verse:** Using the sticky notes from Sunday, stick them at different places around the classroom. Have students find the sticky notes and arrange them correctly on the marker board to display the verse. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Read the Memory Verse together out loud.

### Prayer

### Starter

Darrell was at a Friday night football game with a few friends from school. Darrell had chosen good friends, and his parents allowed him to go with “the guys” to the football game. They were to go to the game, then to eat pizza, and be home by 11 PM. This was the first time Darrell had been out with his friends without a parent. Everybody was having fun. The game was good; they saw some girls they knew, and their team won.

After the game, the guys got to the pizza place and ordered. While they waited for their pizza, an older brother of one guy joined them. They talked about the game for a while, then about some girls they had seen. The older guy decided he wanted some beer. He told the others that he would order a pitcher of beer, and they could all join in.

One guy thought that would be cool, but Darrell and a couple of his friends said they didn’t want beer. Darrell thought about it for a few minutes. He didn’t want beer and he thought being around guys drinking it was not where he wanted to be. Darrell realized beer could lead to trouble, so he decided to call his Dad to come get him. Darrell got his pizza to go and met his Dad in the parking lot.

The guys drinking beer thought they were cool, but Darrell was really the cool one. He knew what was right, and he chose to do it. He probably could have gotten away with taking a sip or two of beer. No one would know. But it was better to stay away from it completely. Darrell made the right choice. He had learned some great lessons about serving God from Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Let’s learn these lessons, too!

## Illustrations and Applications

### 1. *Objective: Reinforce the story of the fiery furnace*

Assign students roles and act out the story of the fiery furnace. A big box may be used for a furnace. You can create the look of fire with red, yellow, and orange paper. Cellophane, mylar, and other shiny materials arranged around a flashlight or a short string of lights may be used to make the fire look more realistic. Emphasize the young men's great faith in trusting God (Daniel 3:16-18). Ask how we may make Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego our heroes.

### 2. *Objective: Help students know how to pronounce names*

Add to the BIG Word Wall started in Lesson 1. Say these names for the students, and then ask the students to say them together with you three times each.

Shadrach	shăd' rāk	SHAD rack
Meshach	mē' shăk	MEE shack
Abednego	ă bĕd' nĕ gō	uh BED nee go

### ☀ 3. *Objective: To demonstrate that standing with God will save us*

Give each student five small pieces of paper. Have them write a pretend name on each piece and fold it in half. Take all pieces and mix them up in a pile on a table. Have a student choose one piece. Take it out of the group and tape it to the table some distance away. Read the name and talk about what that person has given up by leaving the group — safety, comfort, encouragement. It might be difficult to be alone. S/he may have to make some hard decisions. Explain how life works — people move, leave, change, and die. Blow on the table until the taped name is the only one left. The others are “out of the picture.” Though it was difficult to be alone, he remained when all the others were gone. His faith helped him to stand even when he had to stand alone. Take one piece of paper with a name and add it to the person who is alone. Guide students to discuss what this provides—support, comfort, and encouragement. Relate this to situations relevant to your students.

### 4. *Objective: Make personal application of the three young men's great faith*

Lead a discussion with the students of ways kids may have to stand alone today. Write the list on the marker board during the discussion. Examples are these:

- Going to worship when many kids don't go at all
- Deciding *not* to use bad words
- Getting your Bible class lesson
- Missing some event to go to worship

## **Building Block Ideas**

*Stand up for  
what is right*

*Trust God*

## **Things to Get or Do for Wednesday Night**

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