

GOD GIVES EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE

GROSSOVER
FROM EVERYDAY TO EXTRAORDINARY

Week 3 – Preschool Additional Resources for Parents

ACTIVITY: **Hot Statue**

INSTRUCTIONS: This is a spin-off of the game, Hot Potato. The kids will stand in a circle and as the music plays, pass a golden object (such as a bowling trophy, a dollar store Barbie spray painted gold, anything works as long as it's gold and statue-like). Play music and then pause it at random. When the music stops, whoever is holding the golden object is out and must sit down. Play until there are three players left. For very small groups, you can play until there is just one player left.

Today, we're going to play a game called, Hot Statue. When the music starts, you will pass this statue around in a circle. When the music stops, if you're holding it, you're out and must sit down! The last three people are going to be our winners today because we're going to hear a story about three special people. (Play the game.) Great job! You resisted the gold statue! Today's Bible story is about a golden statue someone made. There were three men who did not want anything to do with this statue.

ACTIVITY: **Through the Furnace**

INSTRUCTIONS: Create a "furnace" for the kids to go through using a play tunnel. Tape yellow, red, and orange crepe paper around each end of the tunnel. You can also use a hula hoop with yellow, red, and orange crepe paper around it and hold it while the kids climb through it. Today, we are going to pretend like we are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, three people in our Bible story who were forced into a fiery furnace. A furnace is like a big, hot oven! As you crawl

through, think about how scary it would have been if this was real fire instead of pieces of paper!

SCRIPTURE: **Daniel 3**

Today's Bible story comes to us from the book of Daniel, chapter three. The Book of Daniel has lots of stories in it about people who were super-duper brave. This is a story about a not-so-nice king and three men who really loved God.

INSTRUCTIONS: Read Daniel 3 and then answer questions.

The Image of Gold and the Blazing Furnace

3 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide,^(a) and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ² He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. ³ So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

⁴ Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: ⁵ As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

⁷ Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸ At this time some astrologers^(b) came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! ¹⁰ Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, ¹¹ and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹² But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us^(d) from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

²⁵ He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."

³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

What did the king in our Bible story build? Yes, it was a really big statue made of gold.

What law did the king make? The king said that when the music played, everyone must bow down and worship the statue.

What would happen to people who disobeyed the king's law? They would be thrown into a fiery furnace!

Today, the three men in our Bible story showed courage. That means they did something that other people would find scary. They stood up to the king and didn't bow down to the statue. They were thrown into the furnace, but they

didn't get hurt because God was with them! **Have you every been in a scary situation? What did you do?**

ACTIVITY: Not Afraid!

Are you afraid of the dark? Lots of us are. Maybe you prefer to sleep with a night-light? I know I do. But two things give me courage when I'm in the dark: praying to ask God for courage and my flashlight! So, let's practice being full of courage together. We're going to turn the lights off in here just for a few seconds, okay?

INSTRUCTIONS: Turn the lights off in the room and huddle together in the middle of the room. Prepare a flashlight and ask one kid to volunteer to take the flashlight to the light switch and turn the lights back on. When they get there, tell them to yell, "God gives me extraordinary courage!" Repeat until everyone who wants to try has had a turn.