

THE FIERY FURNACE

Daniel 3:1 [2-7] 8-30



Key Verse:

“We will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

Daniel 3:18

The Point:

God will be with us even in the worst of times.

Making Connections:

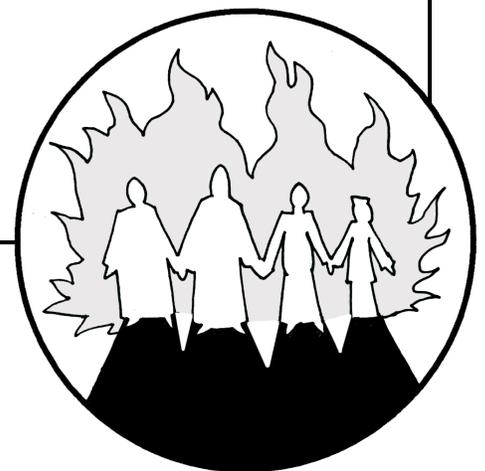
God’s Presence Brings Life

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Understanding Visions in the Bible

Spiritual Practice:

Fellowship



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

Our theme this unit is a promise—God’s Presence Brings Life. Through the stories of the fiery furnace, Ezekiel’s tale of the dry bones, and Isaiah’s prophecy of abundant life, we continue to see God present in the history of God’s people as we move through the season of Advent and into Christmas.

Story Summary:

The Fiery Furnace

During a time when kings dictated who their subjects worshipped and Jews were held in captivity, all of Babylon was required to worship a golden statue. However, Shadrach (SHAD-rack), Meshach (ME-shack), and Abednego (A-BED-ne-go) worshipped God alone. These three young Jews, who were in service to the king, obeyed the First Commandment and worshipped only God, which put them in grave danger. This required an incredible amount of trust in God’s promises.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God to love and care for them. By following through on the actions they knew were right, these three men put their lives in danger. They were thrown into a furnace turned up to seven times its normal levels of heat, yet they did not give in to the commands of the king.

God protected and cared for God’s people, and God’s presence brought life for the three men. In this story found in the Book of Daniel, we find yet another example of God keeping God’s promises. God was in control, and God delivered God’s faithful people.

The Point

God will be with us even in the worst of times.

There are times when we feel as if we have been plunged into a fiery furnace. It seems as if we are threatened and in difficult situations with no way out. Our natural tendency may be to try to fight our own way out or to simply give up. Even in these challenging times, God promises to be with us and to protect us, just as God has been with God’s people and protected them throughout time.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Understanding Visions in the Bible

The Book of Daniel includes some narratives like today’s text, as well as some visions. Visions in the Bible can be difficult to understand, particularly for those outside of the intended audience. They use figurative language to describe God’s ultimate victory over evil and death, often addressing difficult circumstances in the author’s present. Visions are intended to provide hope that God is present, that our suffering has meaning, and that God will prevail.

Spiritual Practice: Fellowship

Christian fellowship is a concept students learn by being part of a faith community and watching how people help one another in times of difficulty. Students will see how caring for God’s people is a way of experiencing fellowship.





DANIEL FURNACE OF FIRE



Discover the hidden words.

S	H	A	D	R	A	C	H	Q	E	D	A	B	B	B
M	A	B	E	D	I	N	E	G	O	X	F	W	F	H
E	S	V	I	F	N	E	D	F	R	B	M	T	U	S
S	K	T	I	I	L	L	E	Q	H	T	Z	H	R	Z
H	S	P	A	R	N	L	G	A	T	K	B	G	N	A
A	Y	I	R	T	E	K	D	O	J	S	U	I	A	D
C	Q	R	X	V	U	S	Y	C	L	E	O	E	C	V
H	O	X	E	U	W	E	C	W	O	D	S	R	E	I
T	J	N	I	I	O	M	I	U	F	M	E	U	M	S
D	A	N	I	E	L	T	V	Y	E	K	B	N	S	E
Y	G	E	E	I	E	S	Y	I	O	K	T	B	O	R
W	O	R	S	H	I	P	X	W	Y	E	U	W	W	S
V	Y	O	M	V	H	W	X	L	C	P	M	P	O	F
Z	I	K	U	C	E	O	K	C	H	H	G	O	E	B
N	E	B	U	C	H	A	D	N	E	Z	Z	A	R	P

Word Bank

SHADRACH	NEBUCHADNEZZAR	ADVISERS
MESHACH	STATUE	JESUS
ABEDINEGO	GOLDEN	DANIEL
FURNACE	WORSHIP	RESCUE



DANIEL FURNACE OF FIRE

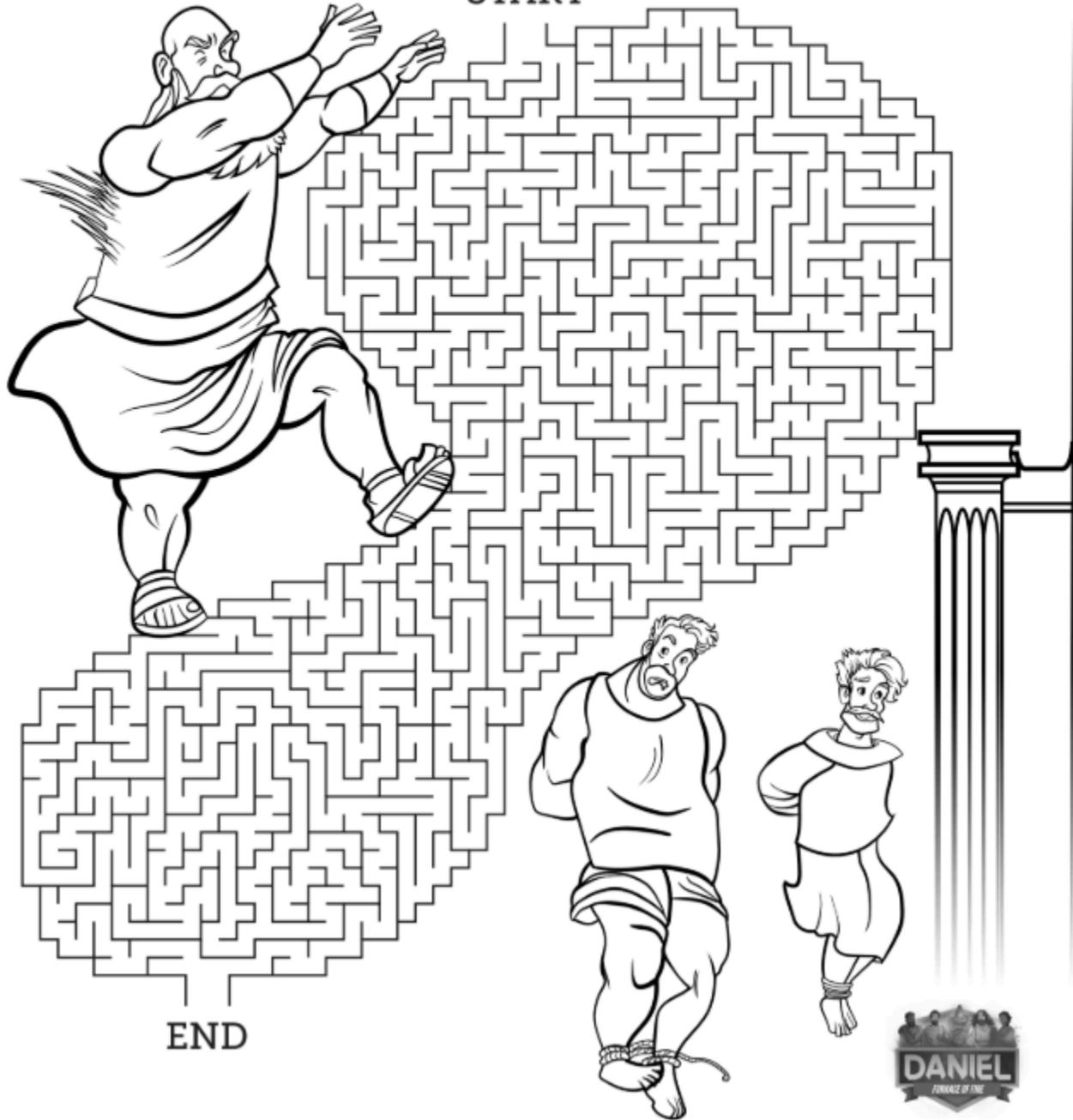
Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



DANIEL FURNACE OF FIRE

Lead the men to the Furnace of Fire

START



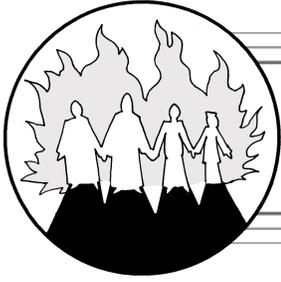
FELLOWSHIP ADVENT CALENDAR

Create an Advent calendar to share God's love.

Our Family's Fellowship Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Advent 1	Invite another family over to play games or share a meal with you this week.			Say a prayer for military families who are away this time of year.		
Advent 2						Buy a small gift for someone who may be lonely and give it to them early.
Advent 3	Bake your favorite holiday cookies. Drop off a plate at a single neighbor's house. Stay to visit, if invited.				Tell each member of your family one thing you appreciate about how they care for you.	
Advent 4		Call three people you have not seen lately to say, "I miss you!"				

This Advent calendar is designed to help your family count down until Jesus' birth, but also to recognize the importance of fellowship in the lives of all Christians. Some activities have been written in for you and some spaces have been left for you to brainstorm your own ways to share God's love with one another, both within and outside of your family.



THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2025-2026)

Lesson #4-13
Daniel 3:1 [2-7] 8-30

LAST WEEK

Jeremiah told the Israelites in exile that God would give them a future full of hope (Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14).

THIS WEEK

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego remained faithful to God in the face of accusations and a fiery furnace. God was with them in the furnace and saved them (Daniel 3:1 [2-7] 8-30).

THE POINT

God will be with us even in the worst of times.

STORY SUMMARY

The Fiery Furnace

During a time when kings dictated who their subjects worshipped, all of Babylon was required to worship a golden statue. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, three young Jews in service to the king, obeyed the First Commandment and worshipped only God. This put them in grave danger and required an incredible amount of trust in God's promises. They were thrown into a furnace turned up to seven times its normal levels of heat, yet they did not give in to the commands of the king. God protected and cared for God's people, and God's presence brought life for the three men.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Understanding Visions in the Bible

The Book of Daniel includes some narratives like today's text, as well as some visions. Visions in the Bible can be difficult to understand, particularly for those outside of the intended audience. They use figurative language to describe God's ultimate victory over evil and death, often addressing difficult circumstances in the author's present. Visions are intended to provide hope that God is present, that our suffering has meaning, and that God will prevail.

PRACTICE: FELLOWSHIP

Christian fellowship is a concept students learn by being part of a faith community and watching how people help one another in times of difficulty. Think of ways that you can care for God's people as a family as a way of experiencing fellowship.

NEXT WEEK

Ezekiel has a vision of God's power restoring dry bones to life and the healing power of God's promises (Ezekiel 37:1-14).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below—or any you have—to discuss this lesson’s Scripture reading with your family.

- † Did you find anything in this reading that was surprising?
- † What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- † What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God’s message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Daniel 3:1-30

God is present in the fiery furnace. As a family, draw and decorate a picture of an angel. Hang it somewhere you will see it often to remind everyone of God’s love and protection that is with us always.

Monday—Read Daniel 5:1-12

Belshazzar was frightened when a hand wrote a mysterious message on the wall. Find a glass or goblet or other piece of dishware that is more valuable than others—perhaps one with special meaning. Why is it valuable? Even with the value it holds, would you worship it? Of course not!

Tuesday—Read Daniel 5:13-30

Daniel interpreted the writing on the wall to warn of the upcoming fall of Belshazzar. Talk about what you do when you do not understand something. To whom do you turn?

Wednesday—Read Daniel 6:1-18

Daniel maintained his devotion to God, knowing that God was with him always. Daniel was a friend of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Pray together, thanking God for protecting God’s people from long ago and for protecting us today.

Thursday—Read Daniel 6:19-28

God’s presence in the lions’ den convinced King Darius of God’s presence and power. Find stuffed animals and act out the story of Daniel in the lions’ den.

Friday—Read Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:1-10

The word of God told Ezekiel the priest to speak to a rebellious Israel. Talk about ways that you think God speaks to you. Is it through prayer? Through other people? Through reading the Bible?

Saturday—Read Ezekiel 3:1-11

The people were not listening to God, and they were not going to listen to Ezekiel. Eat fruit roll ups together, and pretend you are eating the scroll in today’s story. What does it mean to consume God’s word?