

CROSSOVER

WEEK 3

BIG IDEA

God gives extraordinary courage.

BIBLE

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: Daniel 3; (Psalm 46:1-2)

WHAT?

MUSIC | This Little Light of Mine

- This is a pretty common song, but what you may not know is that during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, when people like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were marching for the right for everyone to be treated the same, no matter what color their skin was, they really liked to sing songs while they marched. It helped them remember God was with them and that gave them courage, because honestly, it was a pretty scary time for them. And this song was one of the songs the Civil Rights marchers loved to sing!
- So, let's think about that while we hear it and think about how maybe it gives us a little strength, too. Sing along, if you'd like!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:**-Play or show [this video](#) for "This Little Light of Mine" by Listener Kids.

STORY | The Bravest Thing I've Ever Done

- **INSTRUCTIONS:**-Share a story of a time when you were extra brave and then ask the kids for examples of times they had to be super brave.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:**-Have one or two of your older kids share their stories of time when they need to be brave, such as fixing a broken arm, walking home at night, getting on an airplane for the first time,

and the like.-

- Today's Bible story is about three men who became extraordinary and brave when faced with huge danger.

THE BIG IDEA | God gives extraordinary courage.

SO WHAT?

SCRIPTURE | Daniel 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:-**

- *Watch the lesson video from our website and print the coloring page.*
- *This Bible story from Daniel 3 can be told today rather than read directly from the Bible.*
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- This is a story about a not-so-nice King and three men who really loved God. These men had really interesting names. The King's name was Nebuchadnezzar and the three God-loving men were named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They lived in a place called Babylon and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego all worked for the king.
- One day, King Nebuchadnezzar decided to build a huge statue made of gold that stood 90 feet high. That is so high, imagine 15 men all standing one on top of the other to make a tall tower or five giraffes standing on each other's heads. That was one tall statue!
- King Nebuchadnezzar then made an announcement. He said that whenever the people heard music playing, they had to bow down to this statue. If someone didn't bow to the statue, they would immediately be thrown into a fiery furnace, which was like a really giant oven that got super-hot! They used furnaces to bake bricks and things like that. Would you want to go in there? Me neither! Yikes!
- So, whenever music played, everyone stopped what they were doing

and they bowed down to worship this statue. Everyone except for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. When King Nebuchadnezzar heard these workers were not doing what he said, he was angry. He ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought to him to explain their actions.

- The men were brought before the king and he asked them if what he heard was true: that they would not bow down and worship the statue. King Nebuchadnezzar even gave them another chance. He asked them if the music played again, if they would bow down, and he warned them what would happen if they didn't – he would have them thrown into the fiery furnace as punishment.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said they did not bow and would never bow down and worship something that was not the one, true God. The King did not like this one bit. He ordered the men be sent to the furnace. And that's just what happened. All three of them were thrown into the big, fiery furnace.
- But when King Nebuchadnezzar looked in the furnace, guess what he saw? He saw four men walking around in the fire. Wait, what? Four? So, then King Nebuchadnezzar walked as close as he could to the furnace without getting burned and shouted into the doorway, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, follower of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"
- So, the three men walked out of the furnace without any burns. At that moment, Nebuchadnezzar knew they worshipped the one, true God. God had sent an angel to protect them from burning up – that's who the fourth person was in the furnace. The three men truly trusted and believed in God and were willing to serve and worship God only, no matter the outcome of their choices.

OBJECT LESSON | The Dark

- **Are you afraid of the dark?**-Lots of us are. Maybe you prefer to sleep with a night-light? I know I do. Maybe you are okay to sleep in the dark in your own room, but what about if you are sleeping someplace new? Sometimes, we may need courage when we least expect it.

- **Have you ever been camping?**-That is when I am most afraid of the dark. New places and new sounds can be scary. But two things give me courage when camping: praying to ask God to help me be courageous and my flashlight. So, we're going to do a little experiment. We're going to turn the lights off in here just for a few seconds, okay?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:**-*Turn the lights off in the room (if your room has large windows, try to draw the blinds or otherwise make it darker for this experiment). After a few seconds, turn on a flashlight to alleviate the darkness.*
- Those flashlights really helped, didn't they? Well, guess what? Asking God for courage is like turning on a flashlight in a dark room. At first, it might not seem like it helped. You might still be scared or nervous. But praying to God gives you the ability to calm down and see what you need in order to keep moving.

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 46:1-2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:**-*Read the Bible passage.*
- This month, we've been talking about people God blessed with extraordinary peace, strength, and courage. They all were going through very different things:
 - Gideon was asked to do something really scary that he wasn't sure he was really able to do.
 - Joshua and his friends were told to defeat an entire super-strong city using just trumpets and their voices.
 - Our three guys today were thrown into a fiery furnace for refusing to worship a statue!
- But through each one of those situations, God was with those people! They were never alone, and God gave them the extraordinary courage to handle anything that happened. And guess what? God does that for us, too.
- **Re-read Daniel 3:26-28. What happened because the three friends stood up to the king?**

- Have you ever been told to do something that God might not want you to do?
- What do you think you might have done if you were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
- How do we know God will give us courage when we need it?

NOW WHAT?

MEMORY VERSE | Cup Stacking

- **"God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split the kids into groups of three to four. Give each group ten to twelve red, orange, or yellow Solo cups (or something similar). Split the memory verse up and write parts of the verse on each cup for each group (adults should do this with a Sharpie). The groups will compete to stack their cups as tall as they can, with the memory verse in order, without it falling over.*
- For this game, you are going to work together with your group to stack your memory verse cups in order without your tower falling over. The three to four people in your group will represent Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (*and the angel if a group has four*)-and your tower will represent the golden statue the king made.