

# THE FIERY FURNACE

**N**ebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon. He had the biggest army and the biggest empire anyone had ever seen. King Nebuchadnezzar was so powerful, he began to act like he was a god, not a man.

“All the people should bow whenever I say so,” he said. So King Nebuchadnezzar built a **GIANT** statue, ninety feet high! That’s as tall as a nine-story building! And this statue was covered in **GOLD**! It shone like the sun and could be seen from far away.

“Today I make a new law,” said Nebuchadnezzar. “Whenever my musicians play, everyone must **BOW** down to my golden statue!”

“What if they won’t bow?” his friends asked.

“Then I will throw them into a blazing hot furnace and **BURN** them up!” Nebuchadnezzar yelled angrily.

This was very bad news for **SHADRACH**, **MESHACH**, and **ABEDNEGO**, three young Israelite men who now lived in Babylon. The friends worked for King Nebuchadnezzar, managing the huge city where they now lived.

“It is time to bow to the golden statue!” announced the king’s messengers.



**B**ut Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego **WOULDN'T** bow to the statue. They **WORSHIPPED** the God of Israel, and to bow to any other god—even a pretend god made of wood and gold—would be against God's laws.

When the music played, and everyone in Babylon turned toward the giant statue and bowed down to the ground, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up **TALL**. They would not bow.



King Nebuchadnezzar was **FURIOUS**. "You have to bow down, or you will be thrown into the furnace!" he yelled.

"King Nebuchadnezzar," the three men replied, "if you throw us into that furnace, our God can **SAVE** us."

They looked into the hot, hot fire, and then looked back at the king.

"But even if our God doesn't save us from the fire," they said, "we will **NOT** serve your gods **OR** bow down to your statue."

Now the king was even angrier.

"Make the furnace as hot as it can be!" he bellowed.

"And throw these men inside!"

The king's guards made the fire hotter. Then they tied up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego with ropes and **TOSSED** them into the flames!

And then something strange happened.

King Nebuchadnezzar leaned down and stared into the furnace. His eyes got **BIG**.

*Have you ever seen something that you just couldn't **BELIEVE** you were seeing? Remember how big your eyes got?* King Nebuchadnezzar's eyes got like that, only bigger.

"How many men did we throw into the furnace?" he asked.

"Three!" his guards replied.

The king stared even **HARDER**.

"I see **FOUR** men in the furnace! They're walking around! And the fourth man looks . . ."

King Nebuchadnezzar rubbed his eyes and looked into the furnace again.

"The fourth man looks like a son of the gods!" he said, amazed.





**S**hadrach! Meshach! Abednego!” the king called out.  
“Come out of the furnace!”

The three men walked out of the furnace. They weren’t hurt at **ALL**! Their clothes weren’t burnt. Their hair wasn’t burnt. They didn’t even smell like smoke!

King Nebuchadnezzar couldn’t believe what he was seeing. “Your God,” he said, “sent an angel to protect you! You trusted your God, and He **SAVED** you from the fire!”

Then the king made a **NEW** law. “From now on, no one can say anything bad about the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, because no god is as **STRONG** as their God!”

The most powerful king in the world changed his mind because three friends said, “We’re going to follow God, no matter what!”



## THE FIERY FURNACE

### FAMILY CONNECTION

DANIEL 3



## EVERYDAY TRUTH

When I stand up  
for what’s right, God  
is with me!

## TALK

Why do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had the courage to stand up for God?

How can you stand up for what you believe about God?

Dear  
God ...

## PRAY

Dear God, please give us the courage to stand up for what is right. Thank You for always standing with us. Amen.



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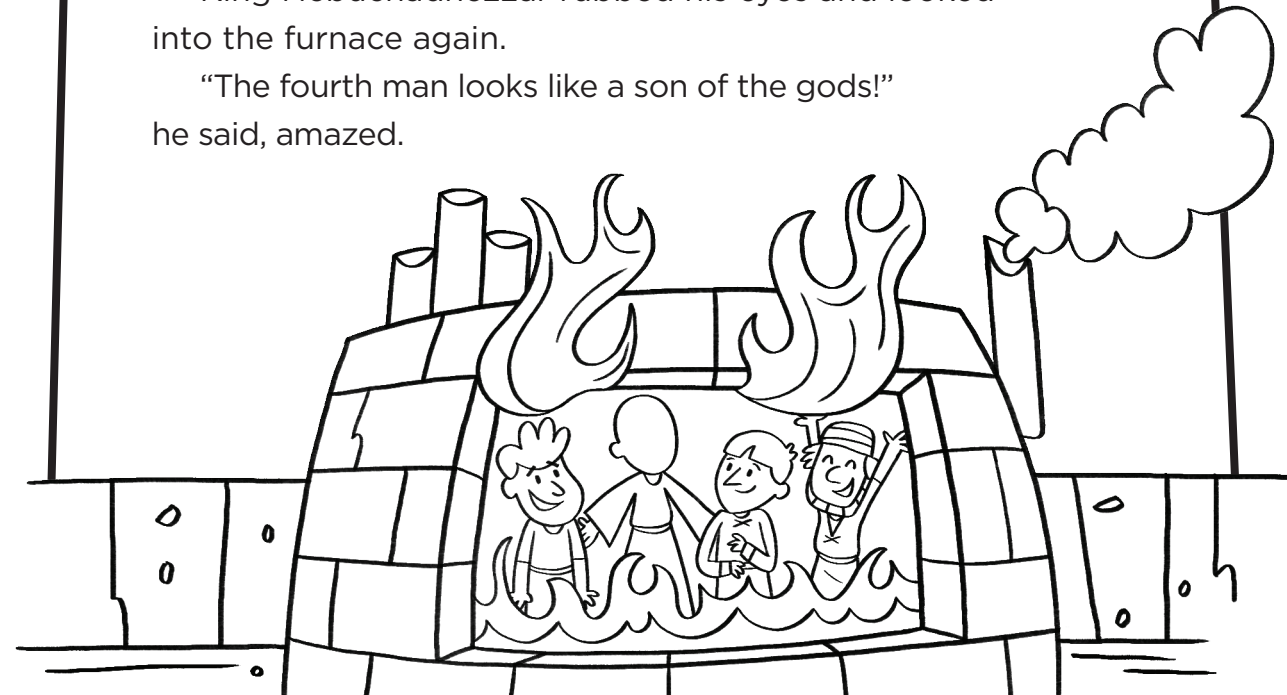
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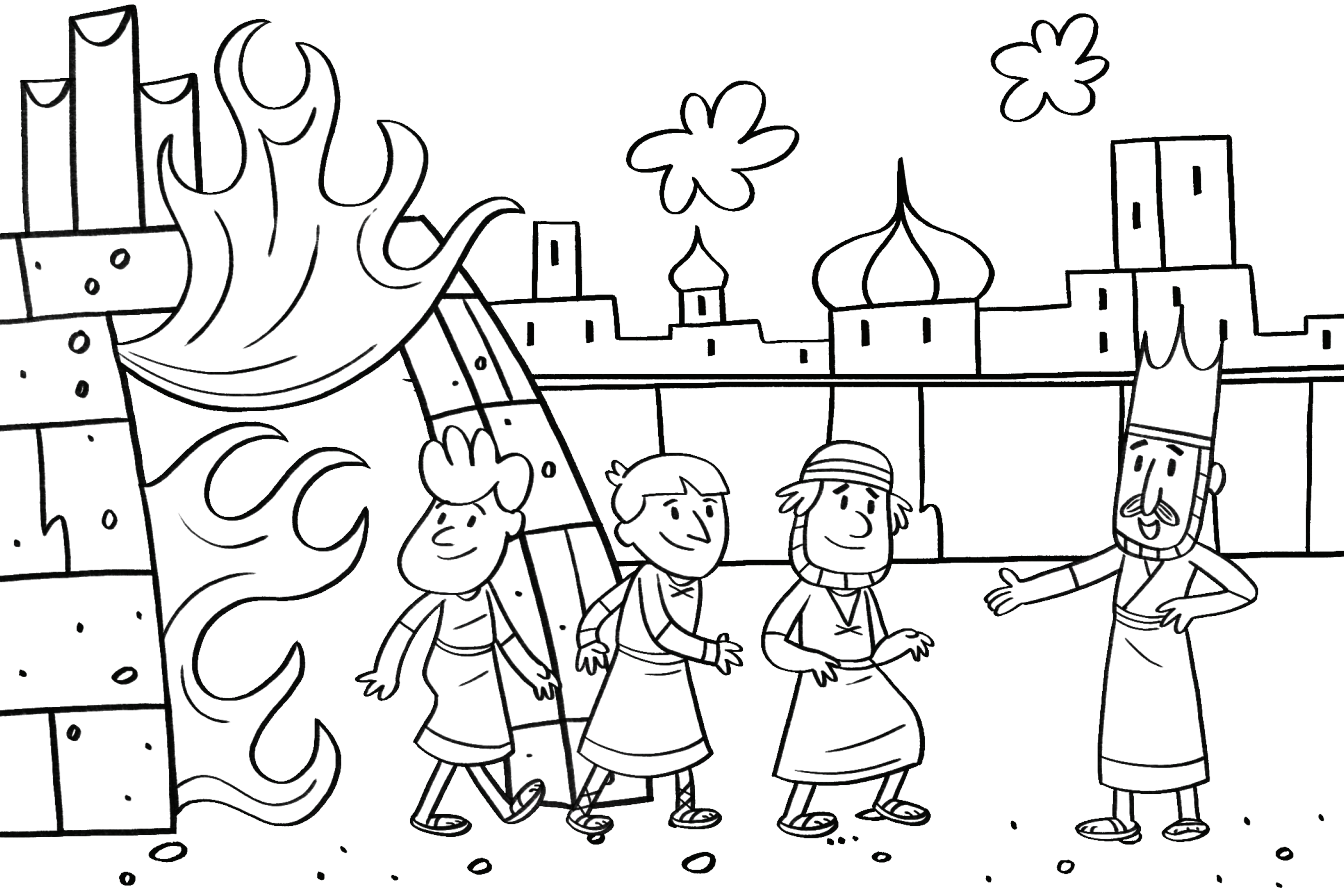
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