

CROSSOVER

WEEK 3

BIG IDEA

God gives extraordinary courage.

BIBLE

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

LARGE GROUP TIME

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.

ACTIVITY | Through the Furnace

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a "furnace" for kids to go through using either a giant appliance box or a six-foot table with a large tablecloth draped over (it

should be big enough to crawl through safely one at a time). Use a yellow, red, and orange tablecloth and/or crepe paper and strong, clear tape.

- Today, we are going to pretend like we are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, three people in the Bible who were forced into a fiery furnace. As you crawl through, think about how scary that must have been if this had been real fire instead of pieces of paper!

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.*
- 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. ▲

- "God gives us extraordinary courage."

SO WHAT?

VIDEO | Crossover, Episode 3 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's [teaching video](#).*

SCRIPTURE | Daniel 3 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This Bible story from Daniel 3 can be told today rather than read directly from the Bible.*
- 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.

VIDEO | Fiery Furnace

- Let's review today's Bible story by watching this video!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this video](#) by Kid Bible Stories about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

NOW WHAT?

ACTIVITY | Courage Beads

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Start with one container each of orange, red, and yellow pony beads or buttons, plus a mason jar or clear, plastic container with a lid. The kids will choose one or more colored beads/buttons that represent a place where they feel like they need extraordinary courage in their lives and*

as they place their bead in the container, they'll pray and ask God to give them the courage they need to get through it.

- Everyone needs a little help being brave. And honestly, some of us need a lot of help with it. I want all of us to think of an area in our lives where we need some extra courage. Maybe you need some extra courage at school because you have to do a big presentation or because there's someone in your class who makes you feel nervous. Maybe you need some extra courage at home because you just moved to a new house and your new room is kind of scary at night. Maybe you need some extra courage at church because you're scared about being in the choir and singing in front of everyone.
- When you're ready, take a colored bead that represents the place you need courage the most: red beads are for courage at home, yellow beads are for courage at church, and orange beads are for courage at school. As you hold your bead in your hand, pray and ask God to help give you the same kind of courage that helped Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stand up for what was right. Then, place your bead in the jar.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What did King Nebuchadnezzar build and what did he want the people to do with it?**
- **Why were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into the fiery furnace?**
- **How did King Nebuchadnezzar know that the three friends actually worshipped the one, true God?**
- **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?**

