


# THE FIERY FURNACE

**BIBLE PASSAGE** ***(DANIEL 3)***

**Summary:** When Babylon captured Israel, young men like Daniel and his friends were taken to serve the king. King Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue and commanded all to worship it or be thrown into a fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused, choosing to honor God. Even when given another chance, they stood firm. They were thrown into the furnace, but the king saw a fourth man with them, protecting them from harm.

**Today's Brite Idea is: Only God is worthy of worship.**

## MONTHLY Memory Verse

*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.*

***(PSALM 145:3)***

## BIG QUESTION

Who is greater than everything? God!

**HE** — God is awesome.

**WE** — We can worship Him.

**ME** — I can worship Him.


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## LEADER TRAINING: USE GENTLE AND IMMEDIATE GUIDANCE

Preschoolers often need help in the moment, not later. Immediate, gentle guidance teaches kids what to do instead of only pointing out what they did wrong. Correction becomes most effective when it is clear and timely, giving kids the chance to learn and practice the right behavior right away.

- **Act quickly and stay calm.** A gentle reminder, such as "Feet stay on the floor" or "Use gentle hands," works best when misbehavior happens. Your calm presence communicates care and sets the stage for safety.
- **Guide kids as needed.** Gently showing a kid how to place a puzzle piece or carry a toy correctly helps them understand through action. Physical guidance combined with words reinforces learning and keeps kids engaged.
- **Reinforce with encouragement.** Pair any correction with positive phrases, such as "Let's try that again together" or "I see you are working hard to listen."
- **Reflect God's patience.** Immediate guidance models grace, teaches kids how to respond to correction and shows them how love can guide behavior.

## NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: PERSECUTION

More than 360 million Christians experience significant persecution in their home countries, including facing kidnapping, jail and even loss of life.* Just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, believers around the world risk their lives by following the one true God. Some kids in your group may have experienced teasing for going to church or being put down for asking questions about God. In today's lesson, kids will see that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stayed true to their faith even when it made life much harder for them. You can help kids see that God uses persecution to point others toward Him. Around the world, the church is growing in countries of persecution. Lead the kids in your group to pray for those around the world who are choosing to follow God even when it's not easy.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

### PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

**Golden statue:** an item people use for worship

**Honor:** to show respect

**Worship:** celebrating God for who He is


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*Use the Bible story cards to teach the Bible story or read the script to the kids.*

## PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

**Golden statue:** an item people use for worship

**Honor:** to show respect

**Worship:** celebrating God for who He is

**Say:** Today's story is about three friends. They were given interesting names—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Can you try to say those names? Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! Let's hold up three fingers for these three friends. The three friends had to live far from home, but God helped them!

**Say:** One day, the king in the new land built a big **golden statue**. Can you reach your hands up really high? He ordered that everyone must bow down and **worship** the statue every time they heard music. Anyone who didn't bow down would be thrown into a really hot, fiery place.

**Say:** The music played and everyone bowed down except Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They wouldn't **worship** a statue. They would only **worship** the one true God! The King heard about this and got really, really mad. Can you make a mad face?

**Say:** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego told the king they would only **worship** God. The king got even angrier! He ordered his men to make the furnace much hotter! Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were tied up and thrown in. The king looked inside. "Didn't we throw three men in there?" he said. "Now I see four!"

**Say:** The king said, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, come out!" Everyone shout, "Come out!" When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the furnace, they weren't hurt. They didn't even smell like smoke!



## POINT TO JESUS

**Say:** God was with them in the fire, and He rescued them. Everyone needs Jesus' help because we have all sinned and need to be forgiven.


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# WRAP-UP:

## BIG QUESTION

**Say:** Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll? 1, 2, 3.. drumroll!

*Show the Big Question and Answer Teaching Image.*

**Say:** Who is greater than everything? God!




God is awesome.

We can worship Him.

I can worship Him.

## VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse Motion Video after the verse is read.*

### MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

*Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.*

- Great *(make a V with your arms)*
- is the LORD, *(point to the sky)*
- and greatly *(bring arms in and extend out to one side)*
- to be praised. *(bring arms in and extend out to the other side)*
- Psalm 145:3 *(open hands like a book)*

## MONTHLY Memory Verse

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