

# DAY 4:

## SHADRACH, MESHACH, & ABEDNEGO

### TODAY'S KEY VERSE FOCUS:

"So that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." - **1 Peter 1:7**.

In our last devotion for this week we are going to read and learn about 3 boys, not much older than you, and how they were very brave when faced with a scary fire. When you find out what happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you will definitely be **FIRED UP** at how strong their faith was in the power of God!

This story takes place in the Old Testament book of Daniel. God's chosen people were once again going through a really hard time. They had been tossed back and forth between different enemy rulers for years. They had to leave their homes and live in strange lands. It was hard for them to obey God and maintain their Jewish heritage when their lives were so tough. King Nebuchadnezzar was on the throne and he wasn't a very nice guy. He built a huge idol out of gold and called for all the people in the land to come worship this huge, golden statue.

King Nebuchadnezzar played festive music and told everyone to bow down and worship the idol when they heard the music. King Nebuchadnezzar even threatened to throw anyone who didn't bow down to the idol into a fire! The music played and almost everyone bowed down in worship to the golden idol – everyone except three brave boys named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These guys loved the Lord and knew that worshiping the idol, or anything other than God, would be wrong. King Nebuchadnezzar found out that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were refusing to worship his idol and he was mad! King Nebuchadnezzar said for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought to him.

Open your Bible to **Daniel** and read **Chapter 3:14-30**.



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### TODAY'S APPLICATION:

In your own words, what does King Nebuchadnezzar say to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in **verses 14 and 15**?

How do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answer King Nebuchadnezzar in **verses 16-18**?

How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's answer make King Nebuchadnezzar feel in **verse 19**?

At the end of **verse 19**, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered the furnace be \_\_\_\_\_ and in **verse 20**, for his men to \_\_\_\_\_ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and then \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_.

King Nebuchadnezzar's men did as they were told. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tied up and thrown into the fiery furnace. What happened to King Nebuchadnezzar's men in **verse 22**?

In **verses 24 and 25**, King Nebuchadnezzar saw something in the fiery furnace that amazed him! What was it?

King Nebuchadnezzar told Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to then come out of the fiery furnace. What was so surprising to everyone in **verse 27**, when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out?

What does King Nebuchadnezzar say and do in **verses 28-30** to close out this story?



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### TODAY'S DEVOTION:

Wow! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were such brave and faithful young men! The first thing that these guys had to do was know the difference in right and wrong. It is important to know what God asks us to do and what He asks us not to do, so that when we are faced with a decision, we know how to react. They knew that worshipping anything other than God was a sin, so they didn't do it, even when everyone else around then was.

When King Nebuchadnezzar first learns that there are some guys not bowing down to his idol and demands that they meet with him, I love how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respond to him. They tell Nebuchadnezzar that their God is **ABLE** to deliver them from the fiery furnace, but even if God chooses to not save them from going into the fiery furnace, He is still good, and they will still refuse to worship anything or anyone else. The first words of **verse 18** are some of my very favorite verses in the whole Bible. "But if not..." Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had huge faith that God was **ABLE** to do whatever they asked of Him, **BUT** even **IF** God didn't do what they asked, He is still good.

God didn't answer Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's prayers exactly like they might have wanted. They had to go into the fiery furnace, but God didn't send them in there alone. He went into the fire with them! When King Nebuchadnezzar saw God in the furnace with the three boys, it changed him. He believed in God and worshiped Him. God might not always answer our prayers how we want, but He will never leave us, and He always knows best.

In **1 Peter 1:7**, Peter writes, "So that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." These words could have been written specifically about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! They were tested in the genuineness of their faith. Their faith was tested by fire and found to result in praise and glory and honor (of the Lord)! Their faith is a great example of how we should trust God regardless of our circumstances.



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**Prayer:** Thank God for the wonderful example of faith and bravery Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego gives us. Ask God to give you the knowledge to know right from wrong, and the courage to do right and not to do wrong, even when everyone around you is doing something different. Thank God for His ability to save us from hard times and for us to understand that just because He is able to keep us from hard times doesn't mean He always will. Sometimes God allows hard things to happen, because a greater good can come from it. Ask God to help us understand that and accept it.

