

CAMP NAME

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# How to Use this Curriculum

We have designed this curriculum to emphasize different ways to face the challenges of life God's way - by faith, humility and obedience. The ultimate result of the challenges when we deal with the God's way is that God gets the glory!!

Feel free to change this curriculum up to suit the group that you are leading. If you have a better idea for activities, please, go ahead and use it - but you have to email us to let us know ([robert@youthframeworks.com](mailto:robert@youthframeworks.com)). PLEASE, get excited about teaching these students. If you are excited about the Scriptures and what they are going to teach the students this week, they will be as well. It is an awesome responsibility to "rightly divide the Word of God" with ones so young and impressionable, but, also, they are great fun to teach - "From the mouths of babes" sometimes the teacher learns something, too.

Prepare ahead of time to obtain all your supplies. It is a lot less stressful that way, and you may not have a Wal-mart close at hand when you get to camp. Have some fun games that you can play if the lesson ends before time is up. I suggest checking out [www.gameskidsplay.net](http://www.gameskidsplay.net). There are lots of great old kid's games on that site - everything old is new again because kids don't play those kinds of games anymore.

Anything that you see in italics is what you are to say to the students. Try not to read directly from the lesson, but read over it enough that you have a good idea what is coming up next. A tip from a long time children's Bible teacher (not me): Even if you are not reading directly from your Bible for the story or quotes from Scripture, hold it in your lap or in your hand, so that the students understand that this is from the Word of God and bears His authority. Some of the questions that are to be asked have "Possibilities". You do not have to give these out to the students; they are just so that you know where this question is supposed to lead them.

Finally - Definition of Church Answer: (comes in the form of an old joke) There was a kindergarten Sunday School class. One Sunday the teacher asked her students, "What is small, furry, has a big bushy tail and jumps from tree to tree?" After a little while one little boy stuck his hand up and said, "I think it's a squirrel but I'm going to say 'Jesus'." This is a church answer and we need to encourage our students to set aside church answers or stereotypes and answer from their hearts, from their own personal experiences and in their own type of language. It makes more sense to them and they are better able to communicate it to their friends. If I say "Don't let them get too churchy," this is what I mean.

# Facing the Challenge (Children)

## Lesson 1: Through the Challenge with Faith Shadrach, Meshach and Abenego Daniel 3

### Opening

*How would you describe faith? .... Let's look at a couple of verses about faith:*

Read Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him (God).

*Why do you think God places so much importance on faith?*

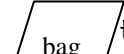
#### Supplies:

- Posterboard
- 2 zip bags
- magnifying glass
- flashlight
- unknown substance
- props for skit

Read Hebrews 11:1 Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

You will pretend to be a crime scene investigator, finding the substance and evidence in Heb. 11:1. You will need the supplies listed in the Supply List for Lesson 1. Place the unknown substance some where in the classroom that you and the students can pretend to find. Have the toy gun or toy knife ready to place in another bag. Make a poster board similar to the following - but add the bags with the "substance" and "evidence" after you have found them and talked about them.

FAITH is...

Substance  things hoped for

Evidence  things not seen

Use the flashlight and magnifying glass to "find" an unknown substance that you can put into one of the bags. You can have the students help you.

*What would a CSI do with this when they get it to the lab?*

*A substance is something that you can see, smell, taste, feel ... experience with your senses. But what if you were hoping for a bicycle? Can you touch it or ride it? Faith allows you to have the certainty that the bicycle is yours.*

Bring out a plastic bag and place in it a toy gun or knife so that you can present it to the "jury" (class) as "evidence".

*Evidence is something that is used in a trial to convince the jury that a person is guilty. It is something that you, the jury can see. With faith we have evidence of things we **can't see**.*

## **Lesson**

*Now we're going to talk about three young men who had incredible faith in God.*

Have the students act out the story. You can supply them with a crown for King Nebuchadnezzar, 3 medals (all the same for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego), 2-6 different types of medals (for the tattle-tellers), swords (plastic or cardboard) and some rope for the guards, white robe or sheet w/ belt (wrap the person up so that they don't look like a ghost) for the Son of God. If there are other students left they can play other parts - use your imagination: other officials, servants, furnace stokers, etc. Note: the medals can be paper circles with ribbons, string or yarn to hang around their necks.

*Once there was this really self-centered king named Nebuchadnezzar. He lived in Babylon and had lots of people who helped him run his empire. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, three young Hebrews men, were in some of these places of honor with the king and helped him as bosses over the area around the capital city.*

*King Nebuchadnezzar decided one day that he would build a huge gold statue and have all his bosses and helpers come from all over the empire to worship it. And .... If they didn't, he would have them tossed*

*into the furnace used to melt the gold. But the three Hebrew men wouldn't bow down to this big gold idol because they loved and believed in God. They knew that it was wrong to worship anyone or anything other than God. So, while the music played and all the others bowed to the statue, they stood to honor their God.*

*There were several of the other bosses who were jealous of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who decided to tattle on them to the king. So, King Nebuchadnezzar had our three heroes brought to him; he gave them one last chance or he would have them thrown into the furnace. He said, "And what god is there that can save you out of my hand?"*

*Here's where our guys show their faith - they say, "Oh, Nebuchadnezzar, we don't need to give you an answer concerning this matter. If it is so, our God, whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire. And He will deliver us out of your hand, O King. But ... even if He doesn't, let it be known to you, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the gold image you have set up."*

*WAIT - Stop the action here and talk about what they just said. Get them to talk about how Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego trusted God, refused to worship anyone else, what it would be like to be put in this kind of situation. May be 1-2 minutes worth.*

*So, now the king was really furious and he had the furnace heated seven times hotter than it already was. Then, he had the guards tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the fire.*

*(Have the guards walk the prisoners across a line of chairs and have them jump into the "fire" - if this can be done safely)*

*The fire was so hot that it killed the guards. But what happened to our heroes? Let's see what King Nebuchadnezzar saw: he said, "How many men did we throw into the fire?" "Well, king, it was three (sarcastically)." "But, I see four men walking around in there, no longer tied up and the fourth is like a Son of God."*

*Nebuchadnezzar is so stunned, that he calls for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to come out of the furnace. All the king's bosses gathered around and saw that the fire had not had any effect on our three heroes, except to burn up the ropes - they didn't even smell like smoke.*

Now read Daniel 3:28-30 from your Bible

### **Application**

*God really came through for our heroes, didn't he? Let's look again at what they said to the king. Read Daniel 3:16b-18*

*What was so important about the very last thing they said?*

*(Lead them in the direction of realizing that they believed in God whether or not He chose to rescue them from the fire.)*

*How could they say that, knowing they were going to be tossed into a huge fire?*

*Think about this: What did the bravery and faith of the three men cause Nebuchadnezzar to say?*

*The king gave God the Glory - that means credit.*

*How can we make sure God gets the glory when we show our faith?*

# Facing the Challenge (Teen)

## Lesson 1: Through the Challenge with Faith

Shadrach, Meshach and Abenego

Daniel 3

### Supplies

- 20-30 mouse traps
- 3 or 4 bandanas
- props for skit

### Opening

Prepare your class room before hand: have an area blocked off that each student must pass through as they enter the room - the kicker is that this area is set with mouse traps and the student will be blindfolded. Gather your class at the door to the classroom - do not enter or let any of them enter. Tell them that there are mouse traps littering the class room and that they must pass through the path before going to their seats but that they will be blindfolded. Then ask them if they trust you to help them navigate through it safely. Have each one pass through the area one at a time barefooted and blindfolded. If you have a large class, select a few (3 or 4) to pass through the path of mousetraps.

After they are seated, remove the traps and ask, *"How did you feel knowing that you could have been snapped with at trap at any moment? Did faith in me make you less scared?"* (Make sure you don't get the church answer on this one.)

### Lesson

You will have the students perform a melodrama - this means that both the teacher and the students must act **over the top**. Don't be afraid to make a fool of yourself (for Jesus so to speak - just like Paul). The more into the act you as the teacher gets, the more that the students will get into the act and enjoy themselves. You can provide them with some types of accessories to designate characters or can use signs. One student can also be used to do sound effects and have signs with "boooo", "oooo", "ahhhh" and "oh, no" on them for the crowd to get into the action. Maybe even have a dramatic tune hummed (or duh-ed) when the king is mentioned. The teacher or an assistant will be the narrator

reading the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Be sure to pause to allow action or any lines that the characters may want to speak - even if they are not in the script. HAM IT UP!!!! One note: Be sure to read through the script several times for practice and to pick out all the parts that you will need someone to fill - it might lose a little of the comedy if you have to stop and assign someone to a part in the middle.

*Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, there lived a very powerful and wicked king, by the name of ..... Nebuchadnezzar. (He enters, in all his majesty.) King Nebuchadnezzar had conquered a lot of little countries here and there and everywhere - and one of them was Israel. He had some young men brought back; three of them were our heroes - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. (They enter bowing.) These guys were so intelligent and wonderful that they were given charge of the affairs of the area of the empire surrounding the capital city of Babylon. (ooo's and ahhhh's from the crowd). All was well in the land of hanging gardens and evil kings until said evil king decided to build himself a monster of a gold statue. When this gold statue was finished, Nebuchadnezzar called together all of his governors, judges, constables and any other minor politician he could think of and gave them this command: "When you hear the music play, you will bow to my statue. If you don't ..... you will be thrown into the furnace used to make the statue." (Pause for dramatic effect and use your most wicked voice; sorrowful sounds from crowd or sound effect guy.)*

*Well our young heroes, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, could not do that. They knew that there was just one true God and to worship Him **only** was the only way. So, what was to happen to our young heroes when the music played - What were they to do? There was no way out - when the music played they stood to honor their God.*

*But do you think that the other minor politicians were going to let them get away with that? (Oh, no's from the crowd.) They went right away to see the king. (In a whiny voice) "Oh great and mighty King Nebuchadnezzar, your good buddies, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego*

didn't bow when you said." "Bring them to me," says our wonderfully evil king. "What do you mean by not bowing to my statue? I will give you one last chance, since I am sooo wonderful and kind. When the music plays - get those musicians in here - if you bow, well, I'll just forget this little incident happened. OK, boys? But if you don't, what god will save you from me?" (very menacing voice) Our young heroes, look at each other to make sure they are all in this together ... and say, "Oh, Nebuchadnezzar, we don't need to give you an answer concerning this matter. If it is so, our God, whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire. And He will deliver us out of your hand, O King. But ... even if He doesn't, let it be known to you, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the gold image you have set up."

Nebuchadnezzar was really ticked off now ... no more Mr. Nice Guy. "Heat the furnace seven times hotter!!!" The guards come and tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (to boo's from the crowd and cheers from the minor politicians), drag them off to the furnace and toss them in. But little did the guards know that they were dead men walking - the fire killed them even from that distance.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego fall into the furnace. Nebuchadnezzar watches to see them turn to crispy critters but ... "How many men did we throw into the fire?" "Well, king, it was three (sarcastically)." "But, I see four men walking around in there, no longer tied up and the fourth is like a Son of God."

Nebuchadnezzar is so stunned, that he calls for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to come out of the furnace. All the minor politicians gather around and see that the fire has not had any effect on our three heroes, except to burn up the ropes - they didn't even smell like smoke.

Now read Daniel 3:28-30 from your Bible

## **Application**

Get a student to read Hebrews 11:6 and have another read Daniel 3:16b-18

*What do you think is the most significant thing that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said in their last statement before being tossed into the fire? Why?*

*Does God always answer our prayers in the way we want Him to? (If they start getting churchy on you, think of some scenarios that don't turn out the way we, as humans, think they should: the dad of a 9 year old that has an inoperable brain tumor, a small child dying, etc.) So, how could these guys be sure that God was going to get them out of this situation? They weren't!!!! But they trusted God anyway - for whatever He decided.*

*Why do you think is God so concerned with our faith?*

Reread Daniel 3:28-30 or have a student. *What was the end result of our guys' decision to stand up for God instead of bowing to the demands of an evil king?*

*Nebuchadnezzar gave God the glory - recognition, credit, fame, honor, prestige, praise.*

*How can you make sure that God gets all of the credit for the actions that you take by faith?*