
GOD RESCUES

SERIES: ONE TRUE GOD

Join us throughout the month of January as we hear stories that show that God is the ONE TRUE GOD! We will be reading from the books of 1 & 2 Kings and Daniel!

REMEMBER VERSE

LUKE 4:8—Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

SCHEDULE

All Services

- 0:00—0:35 Small Group (Respond Activity/Lesson)
- 0:35—0:40 Transition to Large Group
- 0:40—1:00 Large Group (B100)
- 1:00—1:05 Transition to Small Group
- 1:05—1:15 Bless and Dismiss

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

WEEK 1: God Is the One and Only
King Ahab and Elijah

WEEK 2: God Awakens
King Josiah

CURRENT WEEK: God Rescues
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

EQUIP

God rescued His people, the Israelites, even in their disobedience and captivity. When Babylon defeated the nation of Judah and destroyed Jerusalem, the conquerors took captive Hebrew men of nobility to serve the Babylonians. "Among those who were chosen were ... Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego" (Daniel 1:6-7).

Part of the Babylonians' strategy as a world power was to assimilate any potential leaders from the next generation of Hebrews into the Babylonian culture. One way they did this was by changing all Hebrew names to Babylonian names. This was only part of the effort of the Babylonian king to turn the followers of Israel's God into loyal followers of Babylonian culture and religion.

The Babylonians tried to make these Hebrew men conform to their culture. And although, in many ways, Daniel and his friends reflected Babylonian culture on the outside—in the names they were given and the language they spoke—the similarity stopped there. They may have looked and spoken like Babylonians, but the men's hearts did not serve their gods. Daniel and his friends chose to serve only the one true God, even in the face of death.

ENCOURAGE

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego spoke to Nebuchadnezzar, after they'd been threatened with death from the fiery furnace, they said, "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods" (Daniel 3:17-18). These men knew that even if God doesn't choose to save us from the hard things in life, He is still worthy of our devotion.

Spend some time thinking about how God is sovereign and has absolute authority over our lives. Every day, every moment, every breath is a gift from Him. This week, spend some time thanking God for the fact that He gave you life. Spend some time marveling that He controls everything, loves you, and wants to be in relationship with you.

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: Have you ever been rescued or seen someone rescued from danger? What was that like?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fiery furnace, only the ropes that had tied their hands had been burnt! God rescued His servants from death. Because God is mighty to save, we can bring our fears, worries, or hard situations to Him in prayer. Though God does not always—or quickly—take away the hard things in our lives, He listens to our prayers and comforts us through His Holy Spirit.

INSTRUCTIONS: Hand each child a Furnace Template and cutouts. Instruct them to color each of the characters and the flames and to cut them out. Then, have them glue the flames on the front of the furnace in the half circle. Have them fold the sheet in half so the bricks of the furnace and the fire are on the front. Then, have them open the paper and glue the figures on the bottom flap so show that they were in the furnace as the fire burned, but they were unharmed because God rescued them.

SUPPLIES:

- Furnace Template
- Cutouts
- Coloring supplies
- Scissors
- Glue

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

Today in The Big God Story we saw how God rescued His servants Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from a fiery furnace. We heard how they survived without their clothing being burned or even smelling like smoke because God rescued them. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego believed that God is powerful and cares about His people.

- Why didn't Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worship the gold statue? *Daniel 3:16-18*
- Why weren't Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego afraid to go into the fiery furnace? *Daniel 3:16-18*
- How did God comfort them when they were in the fire? *Daniel 3:24-26*
- How has God rescued you? *John 3:16*
- In what area of your life do you need God to rescue you?

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

PSALM 91:14-15 – "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him."

BLESSING: May you know that God rescues and protects His children. He is always with you.

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

RESOURCES PROVIDED:

- NONE

STORYTELLING

In The Big God Story today, we'll hear about how God rescued three of His servants from danger.

Fewer than 40 years had passed since the Book of the Covenant, or God's Word, had been discovered. God had awakened the people to His laws, and they had started obeying Him again. But that didn't last for long. When a new king led Israel, the people stopped following God's laws. So God allowed their enemies, the Babylonians, to take over their land and destroy the city of Jerusalem. The Babylonians took many Israelites to Babylon as slaves.

Several young men named Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were chosen to serve Babylon's king, Nebuchadnezzar. These men learned the Babylonian language and learned how the Babylonians lived. God blessed these men with wisdom. There was a major problem, though. The people of Babylon worshipped false gods instead of the one true God. In order for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to obey God, they would have to disobey the king sometimes. But the young men didn't need to be afraid, because they knew that God rescues!

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered a huge gold statue to be created for the people to bow down to and worship. The statue was bigger than a building with nine floors reaching up to the sky! *ask the kids to open their Bibles to Daniel 3:4-6 and follow along as you read these verses.* The king ordered everyone to bow down and worship the statue. What do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose to do? *Invite responses.* Good thoughts. They didn't want to disobey God's law, so they chose to serve the one true God who rescues by not bowing down to the statue (*Daniel 3:12*).

When King Nebuchadnezzar heard about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego disobeying his rules, he got angry! He told Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that when they heard the music, they should fall down and worship the tall statue. *Read Daniel 3:14-15 while kids follow along.* Did you notice what King Nebuchadnezzar asked the young men? *Pause for responses.* He asked what kind of god could rescue his people from a blazing fire. What god could do that? *Invite answers.* Yes—the one true God! Our God rescues.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had a choice: They could disobey God's law and worship the gold statue, or they could serve the one true God and risk dying inside a furnace, which was kind of like a big stove with a fire inside. Let's hear what they said to King Nebuchadnezzar. *Invite a couple of volunteers to read Daniel 3:17-18 while everyone follows along.* The men knew that God had the power to save them from the fire, but even if He didn't, they would still trust Him.

King Nebuchadnezzar became so angry that he ordered the furnace to be heated extra hot. Then, the king commanded his strongest soldiers to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego with rope and throw them into the fire.

What do you think happened after the three men went into the fire? *Pause for responses.* Good thoughts. Something amazing happened! The king saw it first. *Read Daniel 3:24-25 aloud for the group.* Wow! Did you hear what the king said? Nebuchadnezzar saw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walking around in the fire! And he also saw a fourth person in the fire with them! Who do you think it was? *Invite responses.* Good thoughts. God didn't leave His servants alone in the fire. He was with them and protected them. God rescued His servants from the fire that day. Then, Nebuchadnezzar called the men out of the fire.

What do things look like or smell like when they get pulled out of a fire? *Pause for answers.* The Bible says that when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked out of the fire, their hair and clothes weren't burnt! Nebuchadnezzar could hardly believe what he saw and praised God for being Rescuer. *Invite kids to read Daniel 3:28 aloud with you.*

God still rescues today. When we trust in His Son, Jesus, God rescues us from the punishment of death that we all should face because of our sin. And even though we might not be thrown into a fire like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we still go through times when we need God to rescue us.

Sometimes God doesn't take away the hard things in our lives, but we can still trust Him and know that He loves us. We can pray, as these three men did, that even if God doesn't take away these hard things, we can still trust Him and follow Him. He comforts His people. He is always with us.