

Bible Story 25: SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO IN THE FIERY FURNANCE; DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

SCRIPTURE: DANIEL 1:1-20; 3:1-30; 6:1-28

MEMORY VERSE: "BUT GOD HAS SURELY LISTENED AND HEARD MY VOICE IN PRAYER." PSALM 66:19 NIV

BIBLE STORY:

The people from Judah had been taken prisoners to Babylon. Among these were four healthy, strong and smart Jewish youths who went to serve the king in the palace. They were: Daniel, Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego. They only ate the vegetables and drank water at the king's table. They studied, learning to read and write like the people in Babylon. This way they were healthy and very intelligent. Even though they were far away, these Jewish boys worshiped and served God.

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar insisted that Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego kneel down and worship a golden idol that he had made. They would not do this, because they only worshiped God. The king was very angry and threw them into a burning furnace that was very, very hot. What happened? God sent an angel to protect the Jewish boys. Finally the king had them taken out of the furnace. King Nebuchadnezzar recognized that these Jewish youths served and were protected by their all-powerful and almighty God.

Many years passed, and King Darius was now the king of Babylon. He signed a law demanding that for thirty days all the people must only pray to him. Daniel had a habit to pray one, two, three - yes, three times each day to God. When he heard this new law, Daniel went home, opened his window and prayed to God. He continued to pray three times each day. Because of this, he was taken and put in a den with lions. God protected Daniel by sending an angel that closed the mouth of each lion. When the king saw that Daniel was safe, he had Daniel taken out of the den of lions. King Darius ordered all the people in the land to respect and honor the powerful God that Daniel served.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

RETELL THE STORY:

Ask volunteers from the group to retell the story.