

# Bible Background

## Daniel 3

The stories we read in the Book of Daniel take place at a time known as the Babylonian Exile. The city of Jerusalem had been conquered. A large number of Jewish people had been taken from their homes and forced to live in a foreign nation, the land of Babylon. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were young Jewish men who were put into the service of King Nebuchadnezzar. Thankfully, they found favor with those in charge. But this quickly changed when Nebuchadnezzar set up an idol and commanded all people to worship it.

The directions were simple: When the people of Babylon heard the sound of special music playing, they were to stop whatever they were doing and bow down to worship Nebuchadnezzar's idol. Failure to follow this command was met with a harsh penalty—being thrown into a fiery furnace. The people followed the command. When the music played, everyone stopped what they were doing and bowed down to the idol. Everyone except for three of the Jewish exiles.

Hoping to tarnish the reputation of the young men in the eyes of the king, some Chaldeans reported that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not obeying the king's command. The men were questioned, but they did not lie about their disobedience: "We don't need to answer your question. If our God—the one we serve—is able to rescue us from the furnace of flaming fire and from your power, Your Majesty, then let him rescue us. But if he doesn't, know this for certain, Your Majesty: we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you've set up" (Daniel 3:16-18).

The three men were sentenced to death. Perhaps in an effort to prove how serious he really was, Nebuchadnezzar had the furnace heated seven times hotter than normal. Despite the intensity of the heat, the words of the three men held true. The God of Israel was able to rescue them from the flames. Nebuchadnezzar saw for himself a fourth figure in the fire and said, "The fourth one looks like one of the gods" (Daniel 3:25). As a result, Nebuchadnezzar issued a new decree: no one was allowed to disparage the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The three men were promoted to positions of power.

It is important to note that the Bible does not promise we will always be rescued from harm. What's important is staying faithful to God. It's important to stand for what we know to be true. Even if you do something others don't like, being honest and trusting God is a great idea. The Bible describes truth as a belt. Belts hold things up and keep things secure. God is a faithful rescuer, and the truth holds us up in times of trouble.



### Bible Story

**Shadrach, Meshach,  
and Abednego Stand  
True**

Daniel 3

### Castle Callout

Armor Up with Truth!

### Additional Bible Reading

📖 Daniel 1

📖 Ephesians 6

### 📖 Teacher Tip

This Bible Background feature is a supplemental aid provided for you, the leader, to give context for each session's story before you teach on it. You may share this information with your Knights if desired, but it is not a recommended portion of the intended lesson.