

# Vacation Bible School 2024

## *Adventures through the Bible*

### “Hidden Heroes”

#### Day 3 – Junior Lesson

**Title:** Daniel’s Friends: Standing Strong Together

**Scripture:** Daniel 3

**Objective:** To learn about Daniel’s friends in the Bible and how they stood strong together in the face of challenges.

#### Background Story:

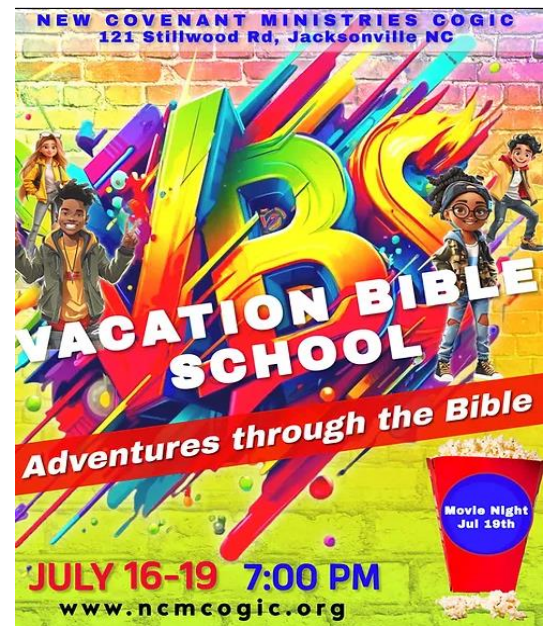
In the Bible, there's an exciting story about three brave friends named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These friends lived a long time ago in a place called Babylon. One day, the king of Babylon captured them and brought them to his palace to work for him.

The king of Babylon had a huge golden statue that he wanted everyone to worship. He made a rule that whenever the music played, everyone had to bow down and worship the golden idol. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego believed in the one true God and knew that it was wrong to worship idols. So, they refused to bow down.

The king was very angry when he heard this. He called the three friends and gave them one last chance to obey his order. But they bravely said, "We will not bow down or worship any idol except the God of our fathers." The king became even angrier and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be thrown into a fiery furnace—a big, hot oven that burned things up.

The furnace was so hot that the flames killed the soldiers who threw them in! But something amazing happened. When the king looked into the furnace, he saw four people walking around inside, unharmed! God had sent an angel to protect them.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked out of the furnace without any burns. Their clothes weren’t even scorched, and they didn’t even smell like smoke! The king was



amazed and realized that their God was very powerful. He praised their God and gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego important jobs in his kingdom.

This story teaches us about bravery and faith. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God and stood up for what they believed in, even when it was dangerous. Their story reminds us that God is always with us, protecting us and helping us when we are in trouble.

### **From the story of Daniel's friends, we can learn some important lessons:**

- **Bravery:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were very brave. They stood up for what they believed in, even when it was scary. This shows us that we should be brave and do the right thing.
- **Trust in God:** The three friends trusted God to take care of them. This teaches us that we can always trust God to help us, no matter what.
- **Doing What's Right:** Even though everyone else was bowing down to the idol, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did what they knew was right. This shows us that we should always do what is right, even if others don't.
- **God's Protection:** God protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace. This teaches us that God is always with us and can protect us in any situation.
- **God's Power:** The way God saved the three friends shows His great power. This helps us understand that God is very powerful and can do amazing things.
- **Rewards for Being Good:** After God saved them, the three friends were given important jobs. This teaches us that good things can happen when we are faithful and do the right thing.

### **What We Can Learn from the Story:**

- **God is with us always:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that God was with them even when they were facing a difficult situation.
- **We should stand strong for what we believe:** The three friends refused to bow down to the idol because they believed in God and knew that He was the one true God.

- **God can work miracles:** The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shows us that God can do amazing things, even when we think there is no way out.
- **Friendship is important:** The three friends stood together and supported each other as they faced the challenges.
- **God rewards faithfulness:** The king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to high positions in his kingdom because of their faithfulness to God.

## Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow down to the golden idol?
  - Discuss why it was important for them to follow their beliefs.
2. How did the three friends show bravery in the story?
  - Talk about the different ways they were brave and how we can be brave in our own lives.
3. What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they were thrown into the fiery furnace?
  - Explore the miracle of their survival and God's protection.
4. How can trusting in God help us when we face difficult situations?
  - Share personal experiences or examples of trusting God in tough times.
5. Why is it important to have good friends like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
  - Discuss the value of friendship and how friends can support each other.

## Conclusion:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's story teaches us that even when we face difficult challenges, we can stand strong together with our friends and trust in God's protection. We can also learn from their bravery and faithfulness to God.

## **Craft Ideas:**

1. **Fiery Furnace:** Create a paper plate puppet theater with a fiery furnace scene. Use felt or construction paper to make flames and characters like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
2. **Golden Idol:** Make a paper craft golden idol using gold construction paper or paint. Write “I will not bow down” on it to represent the friends’ refusal to worship the idol.
3. **Three Friends:** Draw or paint a picture of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego standing together in front of a fiery furnace. Add some flames or sparks around them to represent their bravery.