

Bible Story for Big Question 12, Bible Truth 4

use with all THREE lessons

Place
story in

take out

P.1**The Case of the Faith that Faced Fire***Daniel 1-3*

of BQB

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and prepare storyboard figures/story scenes, if using. (In Visual Aids book)
3. Practice telling story with the storyboard pictures, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story.
2. Put up storyboard figures/add story action cues/hold up storybook scenes as you tell the story. Allow the children to help you put them on the board, if desired.
3. Include the children in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
4. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

INTRODUCTION/ LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

"Our story is called: The Case of the Faith that Faced Fire. Here is your listening assignment." Read from Detective Dan's Listening Assignment signs, but questions are summarized below:

Detective Dan's Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to find out:

1. Who did the king order to be thrown into the fire?
2. What did God give them faith to do?

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Proverbs 3:5-6:**

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

I need to find out:

1. Who had to trust in the Lord in ways far bigger than they could understand?
2. How did the Lord show his faithfulness to them?

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but only 4 of them are in the story.

They are: rich clothes, a clock, a hippo, a big statue, a hot fire, and a mighty king. Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to figure out:

1. Which four belong in our story?
2. Who chose to praise the Lord and keep worshiping him even when it almost cost them their lives?

Read the assignment questions, THEN SAY,

"Ok, Deep Down Detectives! Put on your best listening ears and see if you can hear the answers to Detective Dan's questions. When I finish telling the story, we will see if we can answer all the questions."

Read the Bible Truth story, answer questions, present the gospel and lead in prayer.

Answers to questions; the gospel; and, ACTS prayer are included with the story text.

The Case of the Faith that Faced Fire *Daniel 1-3*

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics) Numbers correspond to storyboard pictures and placement upon the storyboard. Always feel free to use less pictures, if it's best for your kids. Simply black out the numbers next to pictures you do not plan to use. All pictures are found in the Visual Aids book. Put BG (background) pictures on storyboard ahead of time. SB pictures (listed below in story text) are added to board as you tell the story. These numbers are also found on the back of each picture. Tip: Stack pictures in numerical before telling story for easy use. Use sticky-back velcro to attach pictures to storyboard felt. Use sticky-tac putty to stick a picture on top of another picture. OR, if using the Story Scenes to tell the story, disregard the storyboard picture references listed below.

(SB1) March, march, march went Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and the other people of Israel. Their enemies were taking them far away from their homes in Jerusalem. They were taking them to Babylon, the enemy's home, where they would make all those people of Israel work for them as their slaves.

So, march, march, march their enemies made them go, over the hills, and through the dry wilderness, to (SB2) the enemy land, Babylon.

(SB3) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were sad to leave their home. They were sad to have to work for their enemies, but they remembered the LORD's promises to them.

Through the prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah, the LORD told them: "(SB4) You people of Israel have kept on disobeying Me and worshipping fake gods. I have been patient and forgiving towards you for a long, long time; yet still, you disobey Me. So now, I am punishing you that YOU might turn away from your sins," the LORD said.

"(SB5) You will go to work for your enemies for many years," the LORD told them. "But do not be afraid. I will take care of you and be with you. I will change your hearts with my Spirit, so you will want to obey Me. I will bring you back home," He promised. "(SB6) And best of all, one day, I will even send a Savior--My Son-- to save you from your sins. So trust in Me! Be happy with what I want! I am the LORD, the great, one, true God," the LORD said.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego held onto the LORD's promises. They chose to trust in Him and be happy with what He wanted...even though they had to live far away in Babylon and work for their enemies.

(SB7) Now, these enemies had a mighty king with a big, big name. Are you ready for it? It is King Nebuchadnezzar!

Can you say Nebuchadnezzar?

King Nebuchadnezzar had a helper named (SB8) Ashpenaz. Ashpenaz had a very important job. He was supposed to pick out the smartest, most handsome, young men from among the slaves and teach them to be new helpers for King Nebuchadnezzar. When Ashpenaz looked among the people of Israel for the smartest, most handsome, young men, who do you think he picked?

Can you guess who?

He picked (SB9) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego!

"(SB10) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, you are just the kind of men King Nebuchadnezzar wants for new helpers. Come with me!" Ashpenaz ordered them. "You will go to the king's helper school. You will eat the best food and wear the finest robes and hats," Ashpenaz told them. "You will learn all about mighty King Nebuchadnezzar and the great gods of Babylon. You will work in the king's beautiful palace and help him make good decisions," he said.

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P.3*Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)*

Wow! What a good life King Nebuchadnezzar was offering Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! The best food to eat; the finest robes and hats to wear; and the honor of working in the rich palace of the mighty king, himself! This didn't sound so bad, did it?

What food do you think is the best food? What would it be like to work for a mighty king, do you think?

(SB11) But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew the truth. King Nebuchadnezzar was being tricky! He was giving them all these nice things so they would forget their home, the LORD, their God, and the Bible, His Word. Yes! King Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to stop thinking about the LORD and honor him and his fake gods instead!

And what would happen to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego if they didn't honor King Nebuchadnezzar and his fake gods as the king wanted them to? They were soon to find out.

What do you think? What would the king do?

(SB12) King Nebuchadnezzar came up with a big idea: "I am the greatest king on earth! Look at all the peoples I have captured and made my workers!" the king boasted! "They should worship me and my gods!"

"So, I'm going to make a great, golden statue for them all to worship," King Nebuchadnezzar planned. "Then everyone will really see what a great king I am and what great gods I worship."

(SB13) So King Nebuchadnezzar gave the order to his workers, "Build me a great, golden statue. Make it as high as a tall building. Put it out where lots of people can gather around it and worship it," the king ordered.

(SB14) The workers obeyed the king. They (SB15) built the great, golden statue, just like the king ordered. (SB16 replaces SB15) And when it was finished, oh, how tall it was! And oh, how golden it was! It was truly amazing to look at!

(SB17) Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to all his helpers and his musicians: "Come gather at the great, golden statue. When the musicians play their music, you are all to fall down and worship the great, golden statue I have made. This will show everyone how great I am and how great my gods are," he said.

"But if anyone refuses to worship, I will have him thrown into a (SB18) burning, fiery furnace," the king warned them. "So, you better obey me!"

That was a very scary warning the king gave! And as you can guess, all the helpers obeyed the king. No one wanted to be thrown into the hot, fiery furnace and die. So they gathered together before the great, golden statue and (SB19) when the musicians played their music, (SB20) they all fell down and worshipped the statue.

Everyone fell down, that is, except for three men. Can you guess who?

Can you guess?

(SB21) It was Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego!

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P.4*Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)*

Yes, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego **REFUSED** to fall down and worship that great, golden statue. They worshiped only the LORD. He alone was the one, true God and they knew it. They weren't going to stop worshipping Him now, even if the king might throw them in a fiery furnace. So, there they stood while everyone else bowed down, sure that someone would notice.

And notice someone did! (SB22) Some enemies saw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego standing there and went to the king with the news. "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego don't care about you or your gods," (SB23) they told the king. "They refuse to fall down and worship your great, golden statue," they told the king.

The king was furious! (SB24) He called Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego before him and ordered, "(SB25) Listen to the music and fall down before my great, golden statue right now or else be thrown into the fiery furnace! Show me that you worship me and my gods," he told them. "There is no god who can rescue you from my punishment!" the king threatened them.

Was the king right? Was there really no god who could rescue them?

What do you think?

But, there **WAS** a god who could rescue them. (SB26) It was the LORD! And Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew it! The king was wrong. They remembered the LORD's promises to them. **THEY** loved Him and trusted in Him.

They said to the king, "King Nebuchadnezzar, you are wrong. Our God, the LORD, whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace if He wants to," they told him. "And even if He does not choose to, we will keep on worshipping Him. We will still be happy with what He wants because He is the one, true God and He knows what is best!"

Now King Nebuchadnezzar was really, **REALLY** furious! He had given Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego an extra chance to bow down and worship his great, golden statue, but he would **NOT** give them another! "(SB27) Add more wood to the fire so that it is even hotter!" he ordered. "Throw these men into the furnace!" he exclaimed.

(SB28) Mighty men grabbed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They tied them up and threw them in the fire. The fire was so hot that the mighty men died from the heat when they came near it. But what about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? What happened to them?

What do you think happened to them?

King Nebuchadnezzar looked in the fiery furnace and was amazed to see (SB29) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego walking around in the fire, completely fine! And there was a shining, heavenly person with them (some people think it was an angel, but some think it was Jesus!), protecting them from the fire with God's great power!

(SB30) King Nebuchadnezzar could hardly believe his eyes! "Come out of the fire, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego!" the king ordered. (SB31) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego obeyed. They walked through the flames and out of that hot furnace. They stood before the king, without a burn on their skin or the smell of smoke on their clothes! **Amazing!**

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

King Nebuchadnezzar knew there was only one reason why Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were not killed or even hurt in that burning fiery furnace.

Do you know what it was?

(SB32) It was because their God, the LORD, really WAS the great, one, true God! He was to be trusted and worshipped, just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had said!

King Nebuchadnezzar no longer wanted to bow down before his great, golden statue. He didn't want anyone else to bow down before it, either. It was great. It was golden. But it was NOT God! So now the king had a NEW God he wanted everyone to worship--the one, true God. Can you tell me His name?

Can you tell me?

It was the LORD! (SB33) So the king sent out a new announcement, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He sent His angel and rescued them when they choose to keep trusting in Him rather than worshipping my great, golden statue. These men deserve to be great leaders in my kingdom; and the LORD, their God, deserves all peoples in my kingdom to honor Him," the king declared. "What a great God He is!" And King Nebuchadnezzar was right!

Cracking the Case: (story wrap-up for Listening Assignments)

It's time to see how we did with our Listening Assignment.

Detective Dan's Lesson 1 Listening Assignment:**1. Who did the king order to be thrown into the fire?**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

2. What did God give them faith to do? To NOT bow down to the golden statue, but to keep believing and trusting in Him with their whole lives.

For You and Me:

Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the LORD wants us to trust Him and be happy with what He wants, even when it is very hard. The LORD is always good and His plans are always right, even if we don't understand them. Sometimes this is very hard, but He promises to always help His people keep trusting in Him, no matter what. How can we become God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you trust in Jesus. And ask Him to help you trust Him with every day of your life! He loves to answer these prayers!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Proverbs 3:5- 6, ESV:**

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

1. Who had to trust in the LORD in ways far bigger than they could understand? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

2. How did the LORD show His faithfulness to them? He helped them to NOT bow down to the golden statue, but to keep on believing and trusting in Him with their whole lives. He protected them from dying in the fiery furnace, too.

For You and Me:

The LORD can always be trusted. He is always up to good. His plans are always perfect. And because He is so much bigger and greater than us, there will be many times when we don't understand the good things He's up to. That's why God's people are told not to lean on their own understanding, but to keep trusting in the LORD. The LORD knows they can't do this on their own. They need His help. And He is happy to give it! He will always give His people everything they need to keep trusting in Him and to be happy with what He wants.

We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God will help us trust Him and be happy with what He wants for our lives, too.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: rich clothes, a clock, a hippo, a big statue, a hot fire, and a mighty king.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The rich clothes, the big statue, the hot fire, and the mighty king belong.

2. Who chose to praise the Lord and keep worshiping him even when it almost cost them their lives?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

For You and Me

Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the LORD wants us to trust Him and be happy with what He wants, even when it is very hard. The LORD is always good and His plans are always right, even if we don't understand them. Sometimes this is very hard, but He promises to always help His people keep trusting in Him, no matter what. How can we become God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you trust in Jesus. And ask Him to help you trust Him with every day of your life! He loves to answer these prayers!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****How Should God's People Live?****They Should Live Like Jesus...****By Trusting God and Being Happy with What He Wants!**

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were right to trust in the LORD and be happy with what He wanted. The LORD kept all His promises to them and to the people of Israel, for He DID take care of them; He WAS with them. He DID change their hearts; and, He DID bring them back home. And best of all, He DID send His Son, Jesus, to save all who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior.

Yes, Jesus came and lived a perfect life that pleased God. On the cross, He offered it up to God as the perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Jesus suffered and died for God's people that day. But on the third day, He rose up from the grave in victory. He really had beaten sin and death for God's people!

This gift of salvation can be ours, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus, He will save us from our sins, too. And we, too, can trust Him and be happy with what He wants, every day of our lives, just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for always being good and deserving of our trust. Thank You that You are always good and wise and perfect in everything You do and plan.
- C** God, please forgive us for not trusting You when things happen that we don't like or don't understand. Many times, we choose to stop trusting You or doubting that You know what is best. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for always doing what is best. Thank You that we can always trust You and be happy with what You allow in our lives. Even if we don't understand, we know You do.
- S** God, please work in our hearts. Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You. Help us to trust You with everything in our lives. Help us to be happy with what You choose, even when it is hard and even when we don't understand.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Go to Lesson Plan, p.9 for the script to the rest of the lesson.

