

# The Fiery Furnace

## Teacher's Notes

The Lord's truth stands firm for what is good and right in the face of selfish loves. It has the power to protect and save us from selfish feelings and thoughts.

Daniel 3 Lesson Plan		Materials Needed
<b>1. Welcome Activity</b> (2-3 minutes)	Truth Makes Us Strong pp. 1-2	two empty (flimsy) plastic water bottles with lids, pitcher of water
<b>2. Focus on the Word</b> (5-7 minutes)	Read Daniel 3 and discuss p. 2	shortened version of text included on p. 3
<b>3. Learn by Doing</b> Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	<i>The Fiery Furnace</i> Song—Act-It-Out pp. 4-6	device to play a video at <a href="http://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-fiery-furnace">www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-fiery-furnace</a> <i>optional:</i> simple costumes, e.g. crown, white T-shirt, colored T-shirts; chairs for set
	Angel in the Furnace Tissue Paper Project pp. 7-9	orange or yellow tissue paper, glue, scissors <i>optional:</i> different colors of paper, crayons or markers
	Picture to Color p. 10	crayons or markers
<b>4. Recitation &amp; Closing</b> (2-3 minutes)	Recitation and Closing p. 11	Parent Note p. 12

## New Church Concept The Lord's Protection

People who are strong in truths are kept safe from harm wherever they go, even if they are surrounded by hell. See *Arcana Coelestia* 6769

All people are under the Lord's protection so far as they abstain from evil, but in the measure that they do not abstain, so far they remove themselves from the Lord's protection. *Apocalypse Explained* 643.2

When the Lord is with someone He leads them so that all that happens, whether sad or joyful may bring them what is good. See *Arcana Coelestia* 6303

## Welcome Activity: Truth Makes Us Strong

*Supplies needed: two empty (flimsy) plastic water bottles with lids; a pitcher of water.*

Show an empty water bottle with the lid screwed on lightly. Ask, "What might happen if I put this bottle on a table or the floor and pound it with my fist? Will it change shape?" Once the children have made some guesses, put the bottle on the table or floor and pound it with your fist. A flimsy bottle will flatten easily. Did you make a good guess?

continued on next page

## *Truth Makes Us Strong continued*

Now what do you think might happen if I fill a bottle with water before we pound it? Encourage the children to guess what will happen and then fill the second bottle with water, screw the lid on securely, place it on a table or the floor and pound it with your fist. The bottle should hold its shape. “Did you make a good guess? How did the bottle keep its shape this time?”

Water corresponds to true ideas from the Word. When we hear the Lord’s Word our minds are filled with true ideas that make us strong inside—just as the water inside the bottle kept it strong.

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### *Focus on the Word*

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**Read:** Daniel 3. A shortened version is included on page 3. For young children you may wish to summarize some of the story and read aloud the sentences printed in **bold**.

1. **King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold image. It was huge—60 cubits (90 feet) tall—much taller than the ceiling, taller than most houses—even taller than most churches. What did he want people to do?** Worship the image.
2. **The second of the Ten Commandments is, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image...you shall not bow down...nor serve them.” Did Nebuchadnezzar obey this commandment?** No. He disobeyed it.
3. **What signal did the king give for people to come and worship the statue?** Many kinds of music.
4. **Who refused to bow down when they heard the music?** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, Daniel’s friends. Like Daniel, they loved the Lord and obeyed His commandments—even when they knew they would be punished for not obeying the king.
5. **What did King Nebuchadnezzar do?** He got angry, tied up the men and threw them into a burning fiery furnace.
6. **Have you ever felt angry? Why do people get angry?** Often people are angry if they don’t get their way, or don’t get something they want.
7. **How did the Lord save Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?** He sent an angel to protect them. The king said he looked like the Son of God. **They were protected so well that they didn’t even smell like fire when they came out of the furnace!**
8. **What did the king promise then?** That any person who said bad things about the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would be punished.
9. **The Lord sends guardian angels to protect us too, just as the angel protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Our guardian angels protect us when we feel hot with anger, and they give us the courage to do what’s right. When we do what’s right we can help give others the courage to do what’s right too.**

# The Fiery Furnace

<sup>1</sup>King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in Babylon. <sup>2</sup>He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image. <sup>3</sup>So the officials assembled before the image.

<sup>4</sup>Then the herald proclaimed, “Nations and peoples of every language, <sup>5</sup>as soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” <sup>7</sup>Therefore, as soon as they heard the music, all peoples fell down and worshiped the image.

<sup>8</sup>At this time some astrologers came forward and said, <sup>9</sup>“May the king live forever! <sup>10</sup>Your Majesty has decreed that everyone who hears the sound of all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold. <sup>12</sup>But there are some—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.”

<sup>13</sup>Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. **So these men were brought.** <sup>14</sup>Nebuchadnezzar said, “**Is it true that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?** <sup>15</sup>Now when you hear the sound of all kinds of music, if you fall down and worship the image I made, good. **But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown into a blazing furnace.** Then what god will rescue you?”

<sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied, “**King Nebuchadnezzar,** <sup>17</sup>**if we are thrown into the furnace, the God we serve will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand.** <sup>18</sup>But even if He does not, we want you to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold.”

<sup>19</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious and his attitude toward them changed. **He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and** <sup>20</sup>**commanded his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.** <sup>21</sup>So these men, wearing their clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. <sup>22</sup>The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the fire killed the soldiers who took them up, <sup>23</sup>and these three men fell into the furnace.

<sup>24</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked, “Weren’t three men tied up and thrown into the fire?” They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.” <sup>25</sup>He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like the Son of God.”

<sup>26</sup>Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the furnace and **shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”** So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, <sup>27</sup>and the advisers crowded around them. They saw that **the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.**

<sup>28</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “**Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants!** They trusted in Him and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. <sup>29</sup>Therefore I decree that people who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.” <sup>30</sup>Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

(Daniel 3:1-30 adapted from the NIV)

## The Fiery Furnace Song—Act-It-Out

### Materials Needed

*The Fiery Furnace Song Actions* p. 6, device for showing *The Fiery Furnace* song at [www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-fiery-furnace](http://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-fiery-furnace)

*optional*: simple costumes, e.g. crown for Nebuchadnezzar, a white T-shirt for the angel, colored T-shirts for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego; chairs for a throne for Nebuchadnezzar, to represent the image, and to form the outlines of a furnace

### Prepare in Advance

Read through *The Fiery Furnace Song Actions* and think about how to divide the children into acting parts.

*Optional*: Set up a “throne” for king Nebuchadnezzar, an image, and a “furnace” (use chairs to make a circle in a corner of the room). Gather costumes.

Help children take the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego’s courage to heart by learning *The Fiery Furnace* song by Lori Odhner, and then acting it out. Each verse of the song tells part of the story.



1. Introduce children to the song *The Fiery Furnace Song* by watching a video online at [www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-fiery-furnace](http://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-fiery-furnace). Repeat the song, and encourage the children to join in and sing along. The words and music are included on page 5.
2. Once the children show a basic level of comfort with the song, prepare them to act it out. Assign roles. The characters are Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Nebuchadnezzar, Babylonian princes; Babylonian crowd; and guards. For small groups, a single child can represent a group of people—such as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
3. Follow the acting directions provided in *The Fiery Furnace Song Actions* (p. 6).
4. Act the song out again if there is continued interest, switching roles.

### New Church Concept Music

In former times many types of musical instruments were used when God was worshipped. Wind instruments express affections for good, and stringed instruments affections for truth; and the origin of this was the correspondence of every sound to the affections. Some types of musical instruments are used to express one kind of natural affections; other types, to express another kind. When a fitting melody is played they stir the affections. Skilled musicians make use of this. The reason for it lies in the nature of sound, and its accord with the affections. This has its origin in the spiritual world. It springs from the correspondence of things in the natural world with realities in the spiritual world. Musical instruments correspond to delights and pleasures belonging to spiritual and celestial affections. Some instruments correspond to celestial affections, others to spiritual ones. See *Arcana Coelestia* 8337.2

# The Fiery Furnace Song

Based on Daniel 3

Lori Odhner



Shad - rach and Me - shach and al - so A - bed - ne - go,  
 Ne - bu - chad - nez - zar the king of all Bab - y - lon  
 So then the king called those three men to - geth - er and  
 But the three men in the fi - e - ry fur - nace were



they loved the Lord and they tried to be good.  
 called all the prin - ces and to them he told,  
 asked them if they would kneel down as he said.  
 saved by the Lord when an An - gel ap - peared.



So when the peo - ple bowed down to an  
 "When there is mu - sic of flutes and of  
 When they said no, he just filled up with  
 So they came out of the fire safe and



i - dol, they would - n't for they did - n't think that they should.  
 trum - pets the peo - ple must bow to my sta - tue of gold."  
 an - ger and threw them in fire— to burn them all dead.  
 eas - y, and then the king knew that the Lord should be feared.



Shad - rach and Me - shach and al - so A - bed - ne - go,



they loved the Lord and they tried to be good.

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This song is taken from *Songs from the Word* by John and Lori Odhner. Order the complete book online at <http://tinyurl.com/lohnanlori>. Used by permission.

# The Fiery Furnace Song Actions

Choose children to act the parts of the characters. For small groups, a single child can represent a group of people—such as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Repeat the song with different actors if desired.

*Optional:* Using chairs, set up a “throne” for king Nebuchadnezzar, an “image” and a “furnace” area.

Character	Song	Action
Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego	Shadrach and Meshach and also Abednego, they loved the Lord and they tried to be good.	Fold hands and bow heads in prayer to the Lord.
Crowd	So when the people bowed down to an idol,	Bow down to (imaginary) idol.
Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego	They wouldn't for they didn't think that they should.	Stand and shake their heads “no”.
All (Chorus)	Shadrach and Meshach and also Abednego, they loved the Lord and they tried to be good.	Fold hands and bow heads in prayer to the Lord.
Nebuchadnezzar, princes of Babylon	Nebuchadnezzar the king of all Babylon called all the princes and to them he told, “When there is music of flutes and of trumpets the people must bow to my statue of gold.”	Nebuchadnezzar tells the princes the people must bow.
All (Chorus)	Shadrach and Meshach and also Abednego, they loved the Lord and they tried to be good.	Fold hands and bow heads in prayer to the Lord.
Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego	So then the king called those three men together and asked them if they would kneel down as he said.	Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stand before king Nebuchadnezzar.
Nebuchadnezzar, guards, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego	When they said no, he just filled up with anger and threw them in fire to burn them all dead.	Nebuchadnezzar orders the guards to put the men in the furnace.
All (Chorus)	Shadrach and Meshach and also Abednego, they loved the Lord and they tried to be good.	Fold hands and bow heads in prayer to the Lord.
Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Angel	But the three men in the fiery furnace were saved by the Lord when an Angel appeared.	All four walk around freely in the furnace.
Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego	So they came out of the fire safe and easy, and then the king knew that the Lord should be feared.	All come out of the furnace.
All (Chorus)	Shadrach and Meshach and also Abednego, they loved the Lord and they tried to be good.	Fold hands and bow heads in prayer to the Lord.

## Angel in the Furnace Tissue Paper Project

Nebuchadnezzar ordered his guards to throw three bound men into a furnace. The furnace was so hot that the guards died while throwing them in. But when Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace he saw *four* men, unbound, walking freely in the furnace. The fourth man looked like the Son of God. Create a tissue project showing Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the furnace. Hang the project in a window to reveal the angel protecting them.



1. We are going to create a picture of the furnace that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into by king Nebuchadnezzar.
2. Give each child a prepared *Fiery Furnace Frame* (p. 8), a piece of orange or yellow tissue paper and glue. Turn the frame so that the printed side faces downward on the table. Spread glue around the middle of the frame. Place the tissue over the frame. Turn the project over to show the furnace with the flames inside. Set aside to dry.
3. Give each child the *Fiery Furnace Figures* (p. 9) and a pair of scissors. Invite the children to cut out the figures. *Optional:* Decorate the figures with crayons or markers.
4. Turn the figures of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego so the front side faces down on the table. Spread glue on the back of each figure. Place the figures on the *front side* of the tissue paper on the *Fiery Furnace Frame*. Tell children to be careful in placing the figures as they will be difficult to move on the thin tissue paper.
5. Spread glue on the *front* of the Angel figure. Turn the *Fiery Furnace Frame* so that it faces down and the figures cannot be seen. Place the Angel carefully on the back side of the tissue paper where it can show through above or beside the three other figures.
6. Allow the project to dry. Hang the project in a window. When the sun shines through the picture, all four figures will be seen, reminding children of the Lord's angels that are with us all the time, offering protection.

### Materials Needed for Each Child

copy of *Fiery Furnace Frame* p. 8 printed on stiff paper, four of the *Fiery Furnace Figures* p. 9, pieces of orange or yellow tissue paper as big as the *Fiery Furnace Frame*, glue, scissors *optional:* different colored paper, crayons or markers

### Prepare in Advance

Print pages. *Optional:* Print *Fiery Furnace Figures* p. 9 on different colors, using white for angels. Fold the *Fiery Furnace Frame* p. 8 in half and cut out the center to create a frame. Divide *Fiery Furnace Figures* p. 9 into sets of four. If your class is young cut out the figures as well.

### New Church Concept Temptation

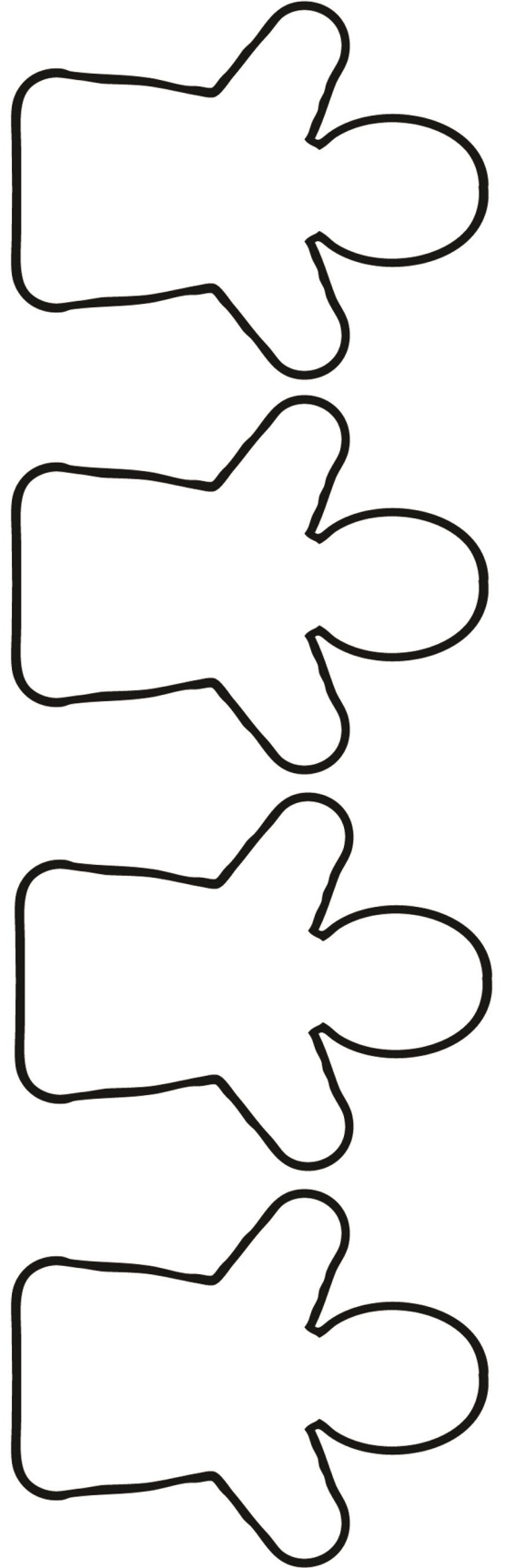
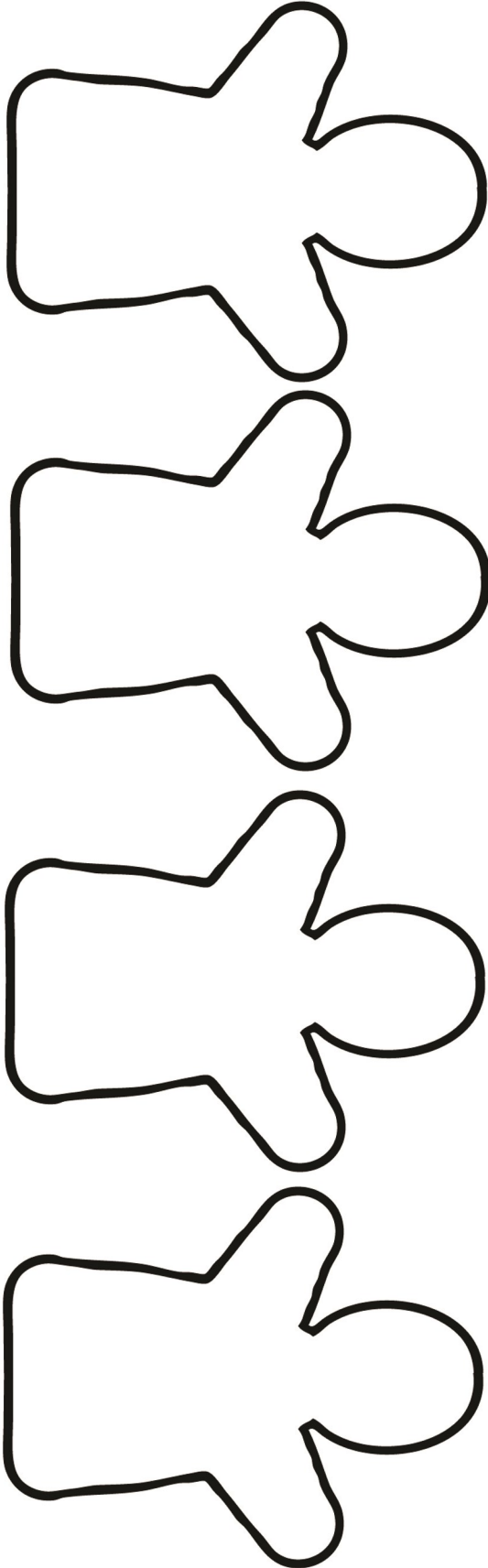
No one overcomes temptation unless he is steadfast in the spiritual affection of truth, even to the end of his life in the world; then the work is finished. See *Apocalypse Explained* 128

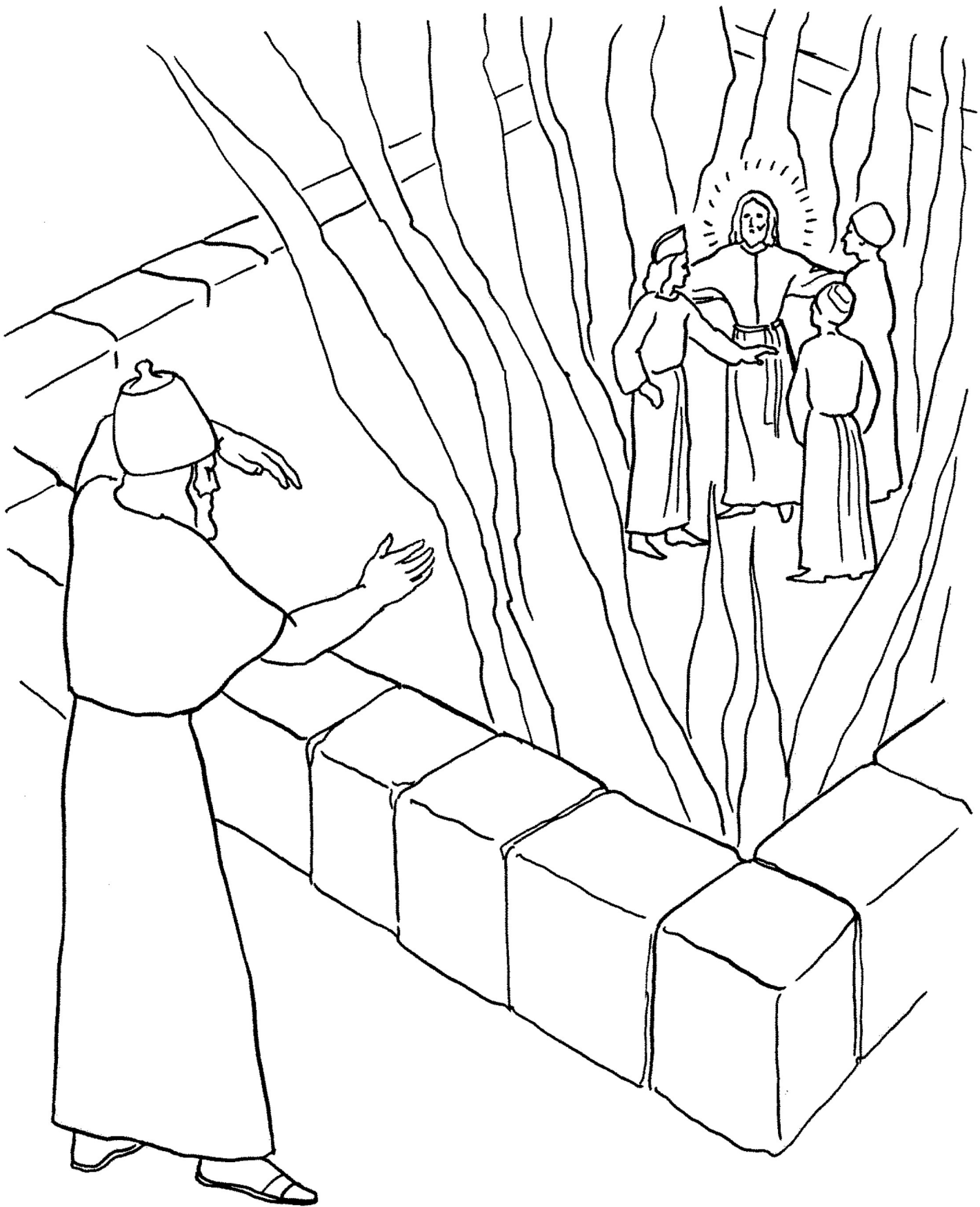
A person who is in temptation is in doubt concerning the end in view. If the end which is loved were not put in doubt, there would be no temptation. See *Heaven and Hell* 603





# *Fiery Furnace Figures*





## *Recitation and Closing*

Each lesson in the Daniel series includes a recitation. The recitations are taken from prayers in the book of Daniel. We will be learning one sentence each lesson, and building on each sentence until all six sentences can be recited together.

Introduce the 3rd sentence of *Prayers in Daniel*, the recitation for this lesson: “How great are His signs.” The Lord gave people a sign about His power by saving Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fire.

Try saying the sentence aloud and inviting the children to repeat it after you. If needed, break the sentence into phrases, e.g. “How great”, “are His signs.” Invite children to repeat just one phrase at a time. End by joining the phrases together and saying the entire sentence.

Review sentences 1 and 2, and recite sentences 1, 2 and 3 together.

### *Prayers in Daniel*

1. Blessed be the name of God forever and ever.
2. He reveals deep and secret things.
- 3. How great are His signs!**
4. He gives wisdom to the wise.
5. He removes kings and raises up kings.
6. I thank You and praise You, O God.

*Daniel 2:20-23; 4:3 adapted*

### **Closing**

The Lord sends guardian angels to protect us, just as the angel protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Our guardian angels protect us when we feel hot with anger, and give us courage to do what’s right. When we do what’s right, we can help give others the courage to do what’s right too.

Give *Parent Notes* (p. 12) to children as they leave.

Cut the Parent Notes apart and give one to each child.

### *The Fiery Furnace*

Dear Parents,

Today we learned how an angel saved Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from a burning fiery furnace. You can watch a song about this story online at [www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-fiery-furnace](http://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-fiery-furnace). Ask your child about the angels that protect them, just as the angel protected these three brave men.

We are learning prayer sentences from *Prayers in Daniel*. Today we learned sentence 3. Please help me say sentences 1, 2 and 3 at home this week.

Thank you.

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*Daniel 2:20-23; 4:3 adapted*

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*Daniel 2:20-23; 4:3 adapted*