

# The Fiery Furnace

## Teacher's Notes

Like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, the Lord's truth stands firm for what is useful or good and right in the face of selfish loves. It has 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 p. 1	2 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)	The Fiery Furnace Jar pp. 4-5	glass jars or clear plastic cups, paintbrushes, glue, flame-colored tissue paper pieces, scissors <i>optional:</i> battery operated light candles
	Play Babylon Bingo pp. 6-13	coins, poker chips, or tiddlywinks
	Picture to Color p. 14	crayons or markers
<b>4. Recitation &amp; Closing</b> (2-3 minutes)	Recitation and Closing p. 15	Parent Note p. 16

## New Church Concept

### The Lord's Protection

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

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. See *Apocalypse Explained* 643.2

## Welcome Activity: Truth Makes Us Strong

*Supplies needed: 2 empty (flimsy) plastic water bottles with lids, pitcher of water*

Show an empty water bottle. Ask the children to predict what will happen if you put the bottle on the table or floor and pounded it with your fist. Will the bottle change? Once predictions are made, put the bottle down and pound it. A flimsy bottle should easily flatten.

Now what might happen if the bottle was filled with water? Fill the second bottle and then pound it with your fist. Water is like true ideas from the Word. When we hear the Lord's Word our minds are filled with true ideas that make us strong inside. The water inside keeps it strong—just as our minds are strong when the Lord's truth is in them.

## Focus on the Word

### 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

Nothing at all can harm people whom the Lord is protecting, not even if all of hell were surrounding them from without and from within. See *Arcana Coelestia* 968

### New Church Concept Music

In former times many types of musical instruments were used when God was worshipped. 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. It springs from the correspondence of things in the natural world with realities in the spiritual world. See *Arcana Coelestia* 8337.2

**Read:** Daniel 3. A shortened version is included on page 3. For younger 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—and even taller than many churches. What did he want people to do?** Worship the image.
2. **The second of the Ten Commandment is, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image...you shall not bow down...nor serve them.” Was what Nebuchadnezzar did right?** No. He disobeyed this commandment.
3. **What was the signal for people to come and worship?** Music. As soon as people heard music they were to bow down and worship.
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.
5. **What did King Nebuchadnezzar do?** He got angry, had the men tied up and thrown into a burning fiery furnace.
6. **What makes you angry?** We often become angry when we don't get what we want.
7. **How did the Lord save Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?** He sent an angel to protect them. **The king said that the angel looked like the Son of God.**
8. **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were protected so well that they didn't even smell like fire!**
9. **What did the king promise?** That any person who said bad things about the Lord God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would be punished.
10. **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 the Lord wants. 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 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 Jar

### Materials Needed for Each Student

glass jar or clear plastic cup, paintbrush for using with glue, glue, flame-colored tissue paper pieces, *Walking in the Fire* p. 5, scissors

*optional:* battery operated tea light candle to light the “furnace”

### Prepare in Advance

Gather jars or cups and other supplies. Make a sample to show the children.

### New Church Concept Temptation

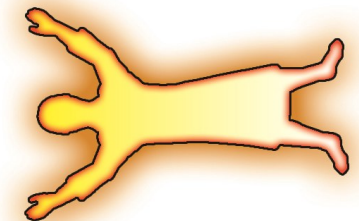
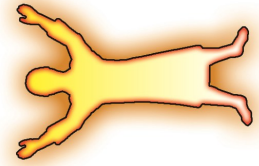
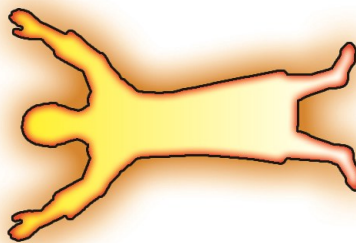
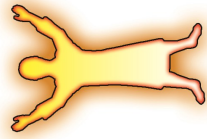
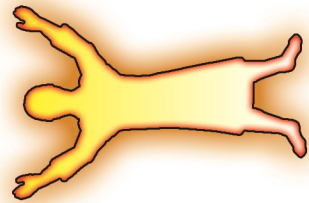
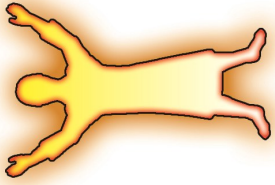
Anyone who is undergoing temptation experiences doubt as regards the end in view. That end is the love against which evil spirits and evil genii fight and in so doing place the end in doubt. And the greater the person’s love is, the more they place it in doubt. Unless the end in view which a person loves is placed in doubt, and even in despair, there would be no temptation. A feeling of certainty about the outcome precedes, and is part of, victory. *Arcana Coelestia* 1820

This story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego pictures the Lord’s close protection in our lives. He is especially close during times of temptation, protecting us from the forces of hell. In this project, students will create a model of the furnace showing the angel protecting Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, followers of the Lord.



1. Nebuchadnezzar built a huge golden image and ordered all to bow down and worship it. He made it known that anyone who disobeyed his order would be thrown into a burning fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were unshaken by this terrible threat, and continued to worship the Lord, as was their custom.
2. But instead of letting them die in the fire, the Lord sent an angel, who protected them so well that when they came out of the furnace they did not even smell of fire.
3. We are going to create a model of the burning fiery furnace. Give each child a glass jar or plastic cup, a paintbrush and scraps of fire-colored tissue.
4. Tear the tissue into flame-like shapes and glue a thin layer of “flames” to the inside of the jar using a paintbrush with the glue. Set aside to dry.
5. Distribute copies of *Walking in the Fire* (p. 5). Have children choose a set of figures whose size matches their jar or cup. Cut out Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and the angel.
6. Glue the figures to the inside of the jar so that they appear to be looking out through the flames.
7. Glue a second layer of tissue paper flames over the figures. The three men will easily show through the tissue paper. The angel figure may only show when a light is shown through the jar or cup. *Optional:* Put a battery operated tea light inside the “furnace” to light up the fire.

# Walking in the Fire



## Play Babylon Bingo

### Materials Needed

*Babylon Bingo Boards* pp. 7-11;  
*Babylon Bingo Cards* pp. 12-13; scissors; enough coins, poker chips, or tiddlywinks to mark off spaces

**Note:** If you do not have markers give students pens or pencils to mark off the squares. However, the boards cannot be reused if they are marked in this way.

### Prepare in Advance

Print *Babylon Bingo Cards* pp. 12-13 and cut them apart. Print enough *Babylon Bingo Boards* pp. 7-11 for each student to have one or more. Gather other items.

Review the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace by playing Babylon Bingo.

1. Give each student a *Babylon Bingo Board*. (The 5 boards given are arranged differently.) Let students look through the pictures. Ask what part each picture plays in the story.
2. Give each student enough coins, poker, chips, etc. to cover squares as they are called. Start by placing a marker on the center square.
3. Shuffle the *Babylon Bingo Cards*, pick up the top card and show it while calling out the word. Make sure each child can see the card and find the matching picture on their boards.
4. Each board has duplicate squares. Each time a card is read children may choose one square to mark off.
5. When you have finished going through the cards, shuffle them again.
6. The player who places five markers in a row—vertically, horizontally or diagonally—first wins!
7. If there is interest, replay. *Optional:* make the game more interesting in a small group by giving each child two boards to complete simultaneously.



### New Church Concept Music

Songs in heaven are nothing but affections in audible form, for just as thoughts are expressed by speaking, so are affections by singing. See *Conjugal Love* 55

### New Church Concept: Babel

People who are interested in external things and not in what is internal wish to be worshipped as a god and to have what is theirs venerated as something Divine, so far as their fear of the common people will let them. From this one may deduce that at heart they refuse to recognize the Divine and are constantly yearning to rise to higher positions, and so far as nothing stands in their way to the highest, and so finally to the throne of God, as is seen from those meant in the Word by Babel, who take all power away from the Lord and ascribe it to themselves. For they open heaven and close it as they please. See *Arcana Coelestia* 10412

# Babylon Bingo Board

## Babylon Bingo

<p>fire</p> 	<p>rope</p> 	<p>Shadrach Meshach Abednego</p> 	<p>horn</p> 	<p>Daniel</p> 
<p>furnace</p> 	<p>seven times</p> <p>7X</p>	<p>harp</p> 	<p>Babylon</p> 	<p>cubit</p> 
<p>flute</p> 	<p>prayer</p> 	<p>FREE</p>	<p>gold</p> 	<p>fire</p> 
<p>angel</p> 	<p>horn</p> 	<p>music</p> 	<p>pipes</p> 	<p>image</p> 
<p>bow down</p> 	<p>Nebuchadnezzar</p> 	<p>prayer</p> 	<p>law</p> 	<p>empire</p> 

# Babylon Bingo Board

## Babylon Bingo

<p>rope</p> 	<p>gold</p> 	<p>pipes</p> 	<p>music</p> 	<p>flute</p> 
<p>horn</p> 	<p>Daniel</p> 	<p>fire</p> 	<p>cubit</p> 	<p>Nebuchadnezzar</p> 
<p>image</p> 	<p>angel</p> 	<p>FREE</p>	<p>harp</p> 	<p>furnace</p> 
<p>prayer</p> 	<p>empire</p> 	<p>bow down</p> 	<p>seven times</p> <p>7X</p>	<p>Babylon</p> 
<p>law</p> 	<p>cubit</p> 	<p>flute</p> 	<p>Shadrach Meshach</p>  <p>Abednego</p>	<p>music</p> 



# Babylon Bingo Board

## Babylon Bingo

<p>harp</p> 	<p>flute</p> 	<p>image</p> 	<p>prayer</p> 	<p>rope</p> 
<p>empire</p> 	<p>bow down</p> 	<p>gold</p> 	<p>music</p> 	<p>angel</p> 
<p>Babylon</p> 	<p>law</p> 	<p>FREE</p>	<p>horn</p> 	<p>furnace</p> 
<p>Daniel</p> 	<p>Nebuchadnezzar</p> 	<p>cubit</p> 	<p>rope</p> 	<p>Shadrach Meshach Abednego</p> 
<p>seven times</p> <p>7X</p>	<p>pipes</p> 	<p>furnace</p> 	<p>fire</p> 	<p>empire</p> 




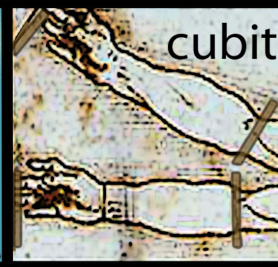









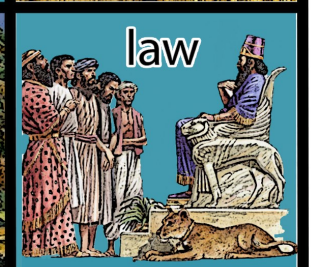


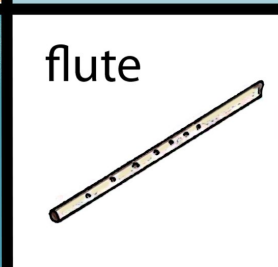
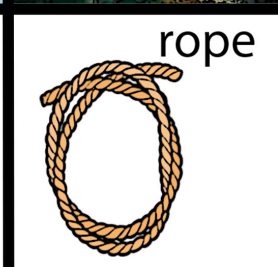


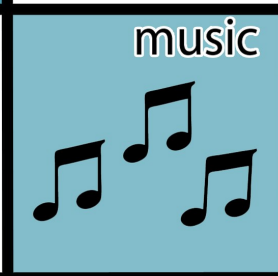
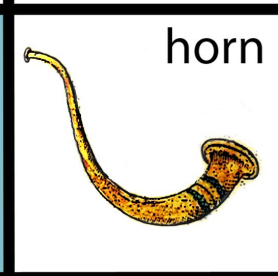

# Babylon Bingo Board

## Babylon Bingo

<p>Babylon</p> 	<p>law</p> 	<p>Nebuchadnezzar</p> 	<p>furnace</p> 	<p>horn</p> 
<p>Shadrach Meshach Abednego</p> 	<p>harp</p> 	<p>prayer</p> 	<p>pipes</p> 	<p>bow down</p> 
<p>music</p> 	<p>flute</p> 	<p>FREE</p>	<p>image</p> 	<p>cubit</p> 
<p>harp</p> 	<p>fire</p> 	<p>gold</p> 	<p>empire</p> 	<p>Daniel</p> 
<p>gold</p> 	<p>image</p> 	<p>seven times 7X</p>	<p>angel</p> 	<p>rope</p> 

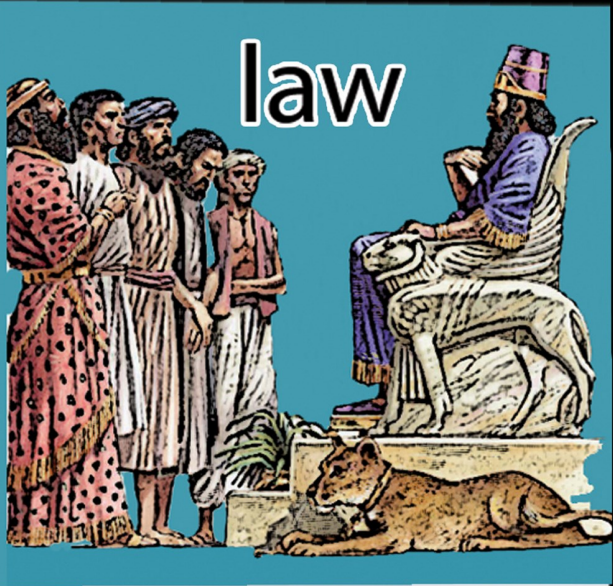
# Babylon Bingo Board

## Babylon Bingo

<p>furnace</p> 	<p>bow down</p> 	<p>angel</p> 	<p>cubit</p> 	<p>fire</p> 
<p>fire</p> 	<p>cubit</p> 	<p>pipes</p> 	<p>Nebuchadnezzar</p> 	<p>gold</p> 
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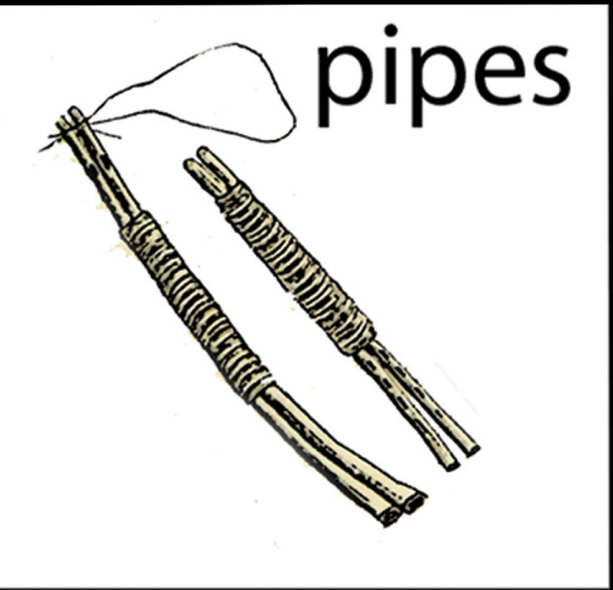
empire



law



bow down



pipes



Nebuchadnezzar



gold

*Babylon Bingo Cards*

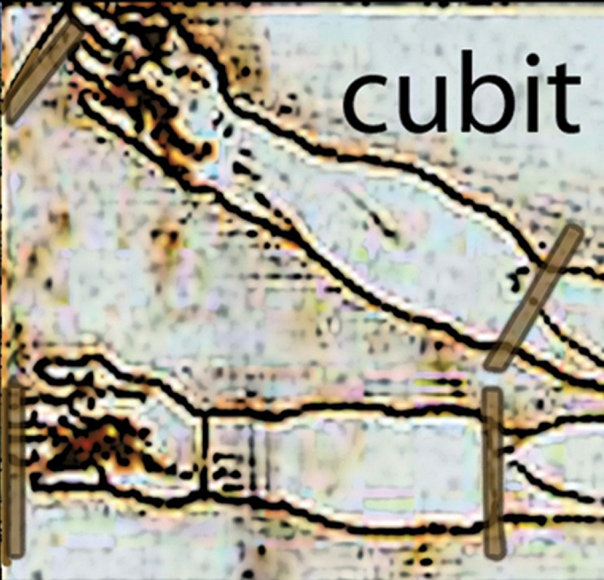
Daniel



fire



cubit



furnace



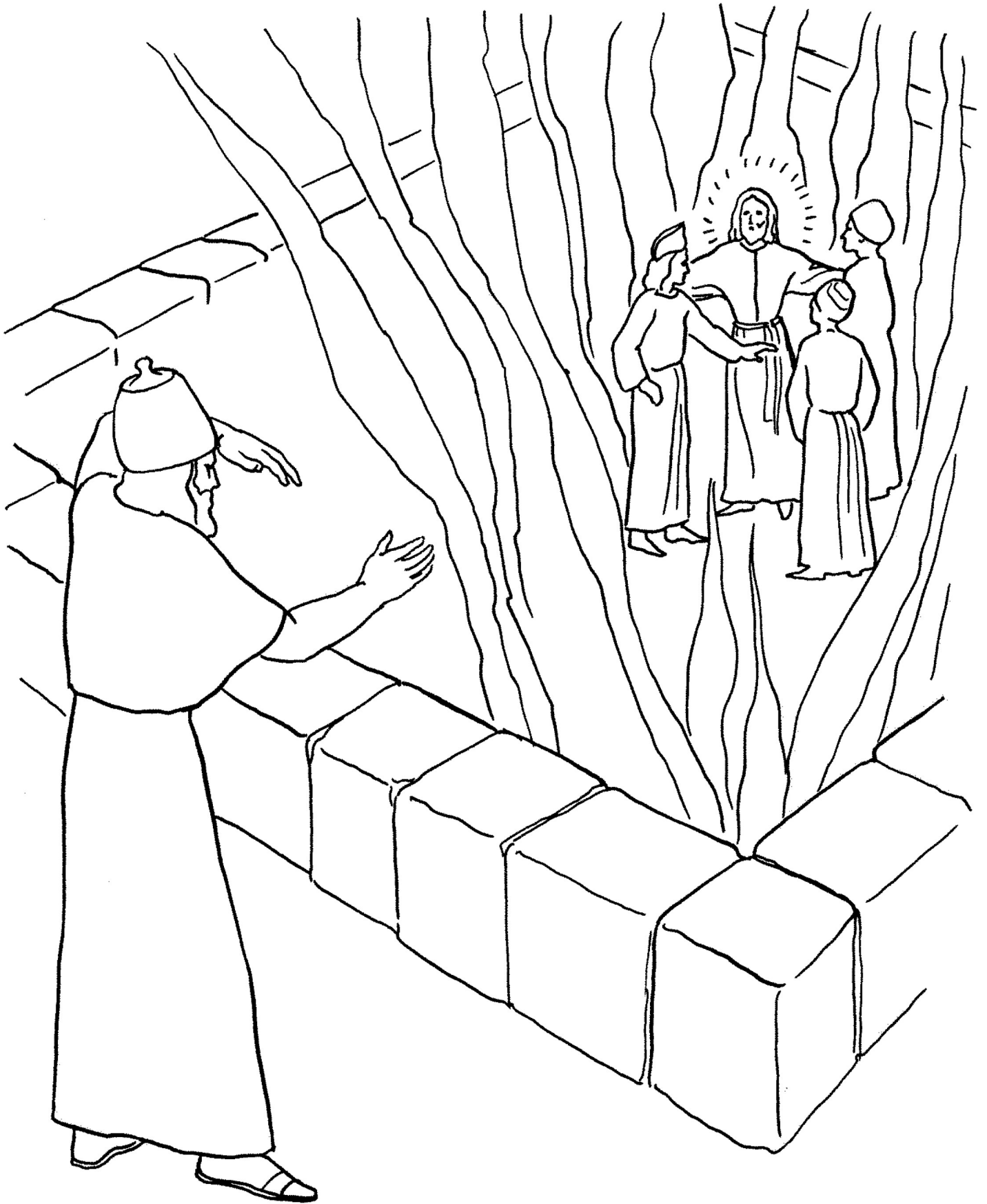
image



flute



*Babylon Bingo Cards*



## *Recitation and Closing*

Each lesson in the Daniel series includes a recitation. The recitations are taken from prayers in the book of Daniel. Most of the sentences were spoken by Daniel after he received the power to explain Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2). They are arranged in an order that reflects the story for each week. The sentence for lesson three was spoken by Nebuchadnezzar after he recognized the Lord as the true God (Daniel 4). We will be learning one sentence with each lesson, and building on each until all six sentences can be recited together.

Introduce the 3rd sentence of the *Prayers in Daniel*, the recitation for this lesson: "How great are His signs!" Daniel's friends—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—worshipped only the Lord, even when that put their lives in danger. The Lord saved them in a burning fiery furnace by sending an angel to protect them. They came out of the furnace without a trace of fire on them. This was a great sign of the Lord's power.

Try saying the sentence aloud and inviting the children to repeat it after you. Finish by repeating sentences 1, 2 and 3.

### *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 an angel protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, angels can help give us the courage to do what the Lord wants. When we do what's right, we can help give others the strength to do what's right too.

Give students a *Parent Note* (p. 16) to take home.

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

### *The Fiery Furnace*

Dear Parents,

Today we learned about a time when Daniel's friends—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—refused to bow to an image made by king Nebuchadnezzar, even when they knew the punishment he planned. Ask your child about how the Lord protected them!

We are learning one sentence a week from *Prayers in Daniel*. Please help your child remember the first three sentences this week. You could say them at meal time, bed time, or when you are brushing your teeth!

Thank you.

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

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