TRACK ONE

Family Study

For parents, grandparents, and kids of every age. Watch together, read the story, talk, play, and pray.



The furnace, heated "seven times more than it was usually heated" (Daniel 3:19, WEB). A still from the film.

The Story, Simply Told

Retold in simple words from Daniel 3. Words in quotation marks are paraphrased for children.

Long ago, God's people were carried away from their home in Jerusalem to the great city of Babylon. Among them were three young friends named Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. In Babylon they were given new names: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They served King Nebuchadnezzar well, but they still belonged to the one true God.

One day the king built a gigantic statue of gold, about as tall as a nine-story building. He called all his leaders to a wide plain and gave an order: when the music plays, everyone must bow down and worship the statue. Anyone who refuses will be thrown into a blazing furnace.

The music began. The gathered crowd bowed low. But three young men stayed standing.

The king was furious. He gave them one more chance and asked, "Who is that god who will deliver you out of my hands?" They answered calmly: our God is able to rescue us. *But even if He does not,* we will never bow to your statue.

So the king had the furnace heated seven times hotter. His strongest soldiers tied up the three friends and threw them into the fire. The flames were so hot that the soldiers themselves were killed.

Then the king jumped up in shock. "Didn't we throw in three men? I see *four* men walking around in the fire, untied and unhurt!" He called them out, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked out of the furnace. Not one hair was burned. Their clothes weren't scorched. They didn't even smell like smoke.

The king praised their God, who had sent His angel to rescue them, and said no other god could save like this.

They chose to stand before they ever saw the fourth man in the fire.

Talk Together

AGES 4-7

1. The king wanted everyone to bow to a gold statue. Who is the only one we worship?
2. How many people did the king see in the fire? Who was taking care of them?
3. When do *you* need to be brave like the three friends?

AGES 8-12

1. Why was bowing to the statue such a big deal to God? (Read Exodus 20:3-5.)
2. The friends said, "Even if God doesn't rescue us, we still won't bow." Why is that so brave?
3. When might a kid feel pushed to go along with everyone, even when it's wrong?

TEENS

1. What "golden images" are people your age expected to bow to?
2. Is it harder to stand alone in person or online? Why?
3. The three friends were respectful to the king but would not move. How can you stand firm *and* stay kind?

Try This Together

Stand Tall 2 MINUTES Play a song. When it stops, someone calls out a real choice, such as *"Tell the truth when a lie would be easier!"* Everyone stands up straight and says together, **"I will stand!"** Take turns calling out choices from your family's week.

The Fire Picture 10 MINUTES Draw a furnace with orange and red flames and *four* figures walking inside. On the flames, write or draw things that feel scary to your family. Across the top, write **"God is with me"** (see Isaiah 43:2, God's promise to be with His people in hard times). Hang it on the fridge this week and pray over it at dinner.

MEMORY VERSE

"...our God whom we serve is able to deliver us..."

DANIEL 3:17, WEB

Older kids and teens: learn all of Daniel 3:17-18.

A FAMILY PRAYER

Dear God, You are the only true God, and You are able to do anything. Help us to stand for You when it is hard, even when everyone else goes along. Thank You that You are with us when we are scared, just as You were with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Thank You for Jesus, who promised never to leave us. In His name we pray, amen.