



The Fiery Furnace Story

Supplies Needed

You will need the following:

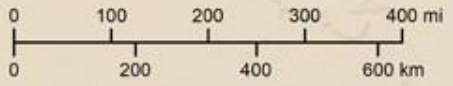
23 Sheets of [Cardstock](#) (8.5" x 11")

23 3 mil Laminating [Film](#)

Directions

- Print pages 2-47 two-sided on cardstock. Laminate the pages.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story.

The Babylonian Empire (609-539 BC)



Before holding up the picture:

What did we learn about in our last lesson? *(King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream)*

Who was able to interpret the king's dream? *(Daniel, through God)*

What did the statue in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream represent? *(different earthly kingdoms)*

What did the rock in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream represent? *(God's kingdom, the church)*

Hold up picture:

King Nebuchadnezzar was the powerful ruler of the Babylonian Empire. He had conquered Jerusalem and had taken captive many Jews, including Daniel and his three friends. Do you remember their names? *(Hananiah/Shadrach, Mishael/Meshach, and Azariah/Abednego)*



Hold up picture:

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar summoned the different governors of the Babylonian provinces (or states) to gather before him for a royal decree (or order).



Hold up picture:

The herald, whose job it was to make the royal announcement, stepped forward with a big scroll in his hands. He loudly proclaimed, “All peoples of every nation and language, this is what you are commanded to do...”



Hold up picture:

“As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, the flute, the harp, and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.” King Nebuchadnezzar had made a tall statue of gold. The statue was 60 cubits high...that would be about 90 feet tall.



Hold up picture:

The herald went on to announce the punishment for not worshipping the statue. He said, “Anyone who does not fall down and worship the image of the king shall be immediately thrown into a fiery furnace.”



Hold up picture:

So when the musical instruments played, the people fell down and worshipped the golden statue just as King Nebuchadnezzar had commanded them.



Hold up picture:

But some Babylonians noticed three Israelites were not bowing down to worship the king's golden image.
Can you guess who it was?



Hold up picture:

The three young men who were openly disobeying the king's order were Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. King Nebuchadnezzar had changed their names to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Their names may have been changed to Babylonian names, but their hearts still believed in the Lord. They knew that bowing down to an idol was something God had commanded the Israelites never to do.



Hold up picture:

When the Babylonians told King Nebuchadnezzar that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were refusing to bow down to his golden image, he was furious. He ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought before him.



Hold up picture:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were brought before the king. King Nebuchadnezzar asked them if it was true that they had not bowed down to the golden image and the three Israelites told King Nebuchadnezzar that it was true.



Hold up picture:

King Nebuchadnezzar decided to give them a second chance. He told them, “If you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you?”



Hold up picture:

The young men told the king, “The God we serve is able to deliver us from the fiery furnace, but even if He does not, we will not serve your gods or worship your golden image.”



Hold up picture:

King Nebuchadnezzar was furious. He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual.



Hold up picture:

King Nebuchadnezzar ordered his soldiers to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.



Hold up picture:

Then one by one, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were thrown into the furnace.



Hold up picture:

The flames were so hot, that the fire killed the soldiers who took Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to the fiery furnace.



Hold up picture:

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leapt to his feet in amazement and asked his advisors, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?” His advisors replied, “Certainly, your majesty.”



Hold up picture:

King Nebuchadnezzar said, “I see four men walking around unharmed! And the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”



Hold up picture:

King Nebuchadnezzar approached the opening of the blazing furnace and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out!”



Hold up picture:

So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire, and all the governors and royal advisors gathered around them in amazement. Not a single hair had been singed, nor did their robes smell of smoke.



Hold up picture:

Then King Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants!”



Hold up picture:

King Nebuchadnezzar made a new decree saying, “The people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be cut into pieces and their houses will be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”

Hold up picture:

And Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were promoted to higher positions in King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom.

Ask:

What are some lessons we can learn from this story?

1. Don't be afraid to stand up for what's right. It's easier to stand up for what's right when we have spiritually-minded friends that stand up with us.
2. We should always obey God's laws over man's laws.