



WEEK FIVE: FIREY FURNACE

Daniel 3
or Spark Story Bible p. 180



STORY TIME

The Golden Image

3 King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. 2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 3 So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, 4 the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.” 7 Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

8 Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. 9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! 10 You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, 11 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. 12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.” 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?” 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. 17 If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

The Fiery Furnace

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, 20 and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. 21 So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. 22 Because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23 But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire. 24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, “Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?” They answered the king, “True, O king.” 25 He replied, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.” 26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. 27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. 28 Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king’s command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.” 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.



DIRECTIONS

Choose one activity out of each section on the next page. When you complete your chosen activity in a section, place a sticker on your sticker chart.

Having fun and don't want to stop? Do more than one activity in your favorite section(s)!



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REFLECTION SECTION

Questions for Grown-Ups

1. "Golden idols" can be many things if they are more important to us than God: money, food, clothes, streaming videos. What "golden idol" sometimes tempts you? How can you reduce the temptation?
2. What big challenge made you feel like you were in a "fiery furnace"? Where did you see God during that challenge? What lesson did you learn that you can take forward?
3. What can you do for others who are in a fiery furnace? How do you share hope with them?

Questions for Young Disciples

Golden Idols are things that we sometimes accidentally worship more than God. We all have "Golden idols" in our lives and they change throughout our life so sometimes they can be hard to recognize. What are some of your "Golden idols"? Is it Air Pods? A new baseball bat that is guaranteed to improve your game? Maybe it is a skin or V-Bucks for Fortnite or a collection of weapons, tools, and materials for Minecraft? How can you make sure you are putting God before your "golden idols"?

Questions for Younger Disciples

Our story talks about a fiery furnace which is like some place that you wouldn't want to be. What kind of "fiery furnaces" have you been in? Maybe you were grounded and had to stay in your room? Maybe you had to go with your parents while they ran errands and it felt like forever. Maybe your class had to stay inside instead of going outside for recess. How is God with you while you are in your "fiery furnace"? How can you encourage or help others when they are going through a bad time?



IMAGINATION STATION

Option One:

Complete today's Furnace Craft.

Option Two:

Color the Furnace Coloring Page.

Option Three:

Take digital photos that remind you of courage: scars, battle wounds, memorials, or other symbols.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Option One:

Spend 60 minutes alone outside with a (safe) fire. Watch the flames and take time to reflect on how God has walked with you through many flames.

Option Two:

Take a walk and think about some of the golden idols in your life. Is it time to let go?

Activity for Families:

Find things that are made of gold in your house and talk about their value. Then find things that represent God in your house. Finally, go back outside and talk about God's value in your life.



MISSION MOMENT

Option One:

Think of someone who may be in a "fiery furnace." Send them a quick note to let them know that you are praying for them. Then pray.

Option Two:

Share your craft on social media with a short phrase about how God grants us courage.

You're done! Be sure to head inside and celebrate your progress on your Sticker Chart, and then let us know what you discovered in the Facebook group!

Furnace Craft

Supplies List:

- Battery-operated tealight
- Toilet paper tube
- Scissors
- Red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
- Glue stick



Instructions:

Step One: Start by snipping an inch and a half (or so) from a cardboard toilet paper tube.

Step Two: Pull out and unfold your gorgeous multi-color packet. Trim a folded section from a red, an orange, and a yellow sheet.

Step Three: Cut a length of paper that will match the circumference of your cardboard ring.

Mark the inside of the ring with a pencil, then place it on the paper so the mark lines up with the paper's edge. Roll the ring along the edge until the pencil mark hits the paper again. Make a light pencil mark on the tissue paper, then remove the ring. Cut the strip of paper about a quarter inch longer than that measurement, so you have some overlap.

Step Four: Trim the other two strips to the same size. Fold a strip in half lengthwise, then in half again, then in half again.

Step Five: Mark a swooping, sharp angle onto the folded paper and cut it out.



Step Six: Unfold the cut paper, then repeat the folding/marking/cutting steps with the other two colors of paper.

Step Seven: Fold the red paper piece back up, and stack the three cut and folded pieces with the yellow on the bottom, orange in the middle, and red on top. Align the colors so the tips of the flames will be staggered in height, with the yellow tallest and the red the shortest. Trim the bottom ends of the three folded papers in a single snip, leaving at least an inch and a half in length below the flame shaped bits.

Step Eight: Apply glue stick to the outside of your cardboard ring, then smooth the unfolded yellow piece around it, lining up their bottom edges. Repeat with the orange and the red. Place a battery operated tealight inside, and you're ready to go!



