

LESSON 10

DANIEL'S THREE FRIENDS REFUSE TO BOW TO AN IDOL

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand what idols are and why we shouldn't bow to them.
2. To recognize that God's true followers should practice what they profess, even in times of persecution.
3. To find ways to show actions consistent with our beliefs.

MEMORY VERSE

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer."

(Psalm 19:14)

PRAYER

1. We thank God for bringing us all together today so that we can learn about His words and grow in His wisdom.
2. Today, we will learn about Daniel's three friends who braved death and remained faithful to You. Please also grant us the courage needed to be Your true followers.
3. Lord, please place in our hearts a desire to become better Christians for You.
4. May God help us learn from Daniel's three friends and attain the same kind of faith in our beliefs as Christians.



Overview

1. The Golden Image Is Made (Dan 3:1-18)

- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, makes and dedicates a golden image (1-3)
- A new law is set to compel all the king's people to worship the image (4-7)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, Daniel's friends, are accused of not bowing to the image (8-12)
- The king pardons the three Jews with a last warning (13-15)
- Persisting in their faithfulness to God, the three friends refuse to obey the king (16-18)

2. Daniel's Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace (Dan 3:19-30)

- The king commands the three friends to be thrown into the fiery furnace (19-23)
- God delivers the three friends from the fire in the sight of the king (24-27)
- The king praises God and promotes the three friends (28-30)

3. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One True Church

4. Life Application

- Christians: Yes, We Are!
- Consistency Is Key!

5. Activity

- Why Persecution?
- Letter to God



Background Knowledge for Teachers

King Nebuchadnezzar

Before this event took place, Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and honored God as the supreme. The years passed and the king, forgetting that he had once acknowledged God's wisdom and power, made a gold image and demanded all his people to worship it. King Nebuchadnezzar is a prime example of how pride can destroy one's relationship with God. He was not consistent with his faith in God. In turn, the king repeatedly disobeyed God and disregarded God's grace. Because of his pride, God humbled him by making him dwell with the beasts in the wild for 7 years.

Babylon

Babylon symbolizes sins (ref. Rev 17:1-6; 18:1-4). For all its glory, the Babylonian Empire lasted less than a century. The army of Cyrus the Persian captured Babylon in 539 BC.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Many of your students at this age may not relate to the danger of committing outright idolatry since they are not likely to encounter other religious practices in their daily lives. However, the prominent danger they face with idolatry has to do with old pagan customs, such as celebrating Christmas, Easter, and Halloween. God warned the Israelites not to follow pagan ways:

"Take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them. [...] You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way." (Deut 12:30-31)

Today, these customs greatly intermingle with our Christian life. We should help our students understand that practicing what we profess as Christians sometimes means behaving differently and despising common beliefs and values. Challenge the students to be different from their friends who celebrate festivals associated with paganism. Daniel's three friends were different from all the people in Babylon in their choice of religion. We should learn from their loyalty to God and be fearless when facing persecution in times of tribulation, knowing that God is our reliance.



Opener

5 Minutes

Before we begin today's Bible story, let's do a quick Bible flipping exercise. Find the third commandment. Discuss with the classmate next to you where you think it may be recorded. Raise your hand quietly when you have found it so that the rest of class can stop searching.

[If your students are having trouble finding the verse, remind them that God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites in the wilderness after they left Egypt. Indicate that the Commandments can be found in the Book of Exodus (Ex 20:1-17; Dt 5:4-21).]

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex 20:4-6)

From this commandment, we can see that God really detests idols. When the Israelites were in the wilderness, Moses warned them repeatedly not to commit idolatry. Let's look at some of the things he said to the people. [Ask the students to flip to the following verses.]

"Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image." (Dt 4:15-16)

"So that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations." (Dt 29:18)

Just like the Israelites, we are the children of God, His chosen people. Therefore, these warnings also apply to us today. In fact, there are multiple places in the New Testament that tell us to stay away from everything connected to idols. The Bible says, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (1 Jn 5:21), "abstain from things polluted by idols" (Ac 15:20), and "flee from idolatry" (1 Cor 10:14).

God said, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One!" (Dt 6:4). We must know that there is no other god other than the one true God that we worship. When we tell others that we believe in God, it means that our actions are ALWAYS pleasing in God's eyes. This is not easy. But, if God sees that we are determined to follow His will, He will always help us. Today, we are going to learn about the story of Daniel's three friends. Their lives were threatened by their belief in God. But they were very, very determined. They relied on God. And guess what happened at the end? We'll find out!



Vocabulary

idol: a person or object worshipped as a god. The golden image King Nebuchadnezzar made is a carved, gold-plated object.

cubit: about 20 inches (in Babylon)



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Pass out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students and let them fill out the blanks as you progress through the lesson. The answers are underlined. The students will be asked to read various verses throughout this section. Make sure to give all of the students a chance to read.

This story begins with a law, a very wrong law, which the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar made. He asked all his servants, including the satraps, the administrators (Daniel was one of the administrators; Dan 2:48), the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials in the plain of Dura to join him in the dedication of a gold image he had made, which he later commanded all his people to worship. Let's go back in time and hear how this new law was announced to the people. "They stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then a herald cried aloud" (3:3-4). May I ask a volunteer to be the herald to cry aloud this new law? [Either write these verses on a piece of paper prior to class or have the student read directly from the Bible.]

"To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up" (3:4-5).

[Pause the student here.] This was the law. Now, think about it. For a law to be effective—a law that people would follow—there must be a... [let students answer]. Right, there must be a penalty for disobeying that law! For the people who do not fall down and worship the gold image, there is a penalty—death. [Have the student continue reading.]

"And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace" (3:6).

How cruel! King Nebuchadnezzar did not give the people a

choice. He forced all his people to bow down to the gold image he made. Today, in the United States, we are given the freedom to choose our own religion. But, do you know that there are still countries in today's world where people that practice certain religions, including Christianity, are being discriminated against? As Christians, we will face persecution. Your friends might laugh at you because you say grace before you eat. They might think you are strange for not celebrating Halloween. But should we easily compromise and let them change who we are? No. We are the children of God, and our actions must always be consistent with who we are. We know that our heavenly Father will reward us for being a good Christian. The Bible says,

"Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. [...] Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev 2:10).

Therefore, as Christians, we should not be afraid of persecution, but be courageous, always behaving the way the Bible teaches us to behave. King Nebuchadnezzar threatened all his people with death if they did not worship the idol, but there were three people who were unafraid! These people were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego—Daniel's three friends. Like Daniel, these three men were Jews and were exiled to Babylon when Jerusalem was taken captive. However, their faith in God was unmovable, even though they were with Gentiles. They knew that this new law was against the Bible's teachings and God's will. As true followers of God, they chose not to obey the king but God, the same God that we worship today!

So one day, some Chaldeans finally discovered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego weren't following the new law. They were accused and brought to the king. Surprisingly, the king didn't command them to be thrown into the fiery furnace immediately, as the law stated. What did he say instead? Let's find out! [Have a student read Daniel 3:14-15.]

"Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you

do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" (3:14-15)

The king forgave them for their first known offense. Can you believe it? Now, you might think that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego must have been trembling when the king spoke to them. They must have been so afraid to die in the fiery furnace. And now that the king had pardoned them, they must at least bow down in front of the king first to save their lives, even if they had already planned not to bow down later.

Dangerous! Satan was using the king's pardon to tempt these three Christians to disobey God! Daniel's three friends, however, were indeed true believers of God. They were hardly threatened by the king or the fiery furnace! Instead of compromising to the king's law, they answered the king in a surprising way:

"O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up" (3:16-18).

Uh-oh. They were definitely going to be thrown into the fiery furnace this time! Well, from Daniel's three friends' answer, we know that they already expected this. Not only did they expect to be thrown into the fiery furnace, but they also expected themselves to be saved from the fiery furnace. Who did they think was going to save them? [Let students answer.] Right, God! They said to the king that the God whom they serve is able to deliver them from the burning fiery furnace. They believed that God has the ability to rescue them even though they know that, as human beings, we can't survive being burned in a fire! On the other hand, since God had not told them that they would be saved from the fiery furnace, they also added, "But even if our God doesn't save us, let us make it clear that we will not fall down and worship the gold image you have made." Daniel's three friends were determined to persevere in their faith. They knew that nothing was more important than obeying God, not even their lives. What do you think happened next? How do you think King Nebuchadnezzar reacted?

Furious, Nebuchadnezzar immediately commanded Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego to be thrown into the

fiery furnace. Not only that, out of his anger for Daniel's three friends, he also commanded his people to heat the furnace seven times more than usual. The furnace was so hot that the flame of the fire killed the men who carried Daniel's three friends, bound, to the fiery furnace.

Now, if the fire killed the men who only got close but didn't go into the furnace, Daniel's three friends should also have been killed before being thrown into the fire. But, they didn't! Rather, the king, who was outside of the furnace, stood up in astonishment, saying, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" (3:24). What kind of question was that? He just witnessed Daniel's three friends being thrown into the fire. Why would he ask such a question? So his counselors answered him, saying, "True, O king" (3:24). They were indeed thrown into the fire. So, the king finally acknowledged the miracle. Let's look at what made him ask that question. [Have a student read.]

"Look! I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God" (3:25).

King Nebuchadnezzar saw that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were alive in the fiery furnace with another man that looked like the Son of God! The king then knew that the God Daniel's three friends worshipped was a real God. Again, He is the same God that we worship today!

So, King Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here."

Talk to your neighbors. What do you think happened next? Do you think that Daniel's three friends were still alive and able to walk out of the fire? Do you think that their skin was burned? Was their hair all gone? Did they smell burned? [Allow students to discuss quietly with their neighbors, and ask each of them to share their thoughts with the rest of the class after a short discussion.]

Some of you were right. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego all came out of the fiery furnace unharmed; everybody came close to them and realized that they were perfectly fine. The fire did nothing to their bodies at all; they still had all their hair and there was no smell of fire on them. How was that possible? With God, all things are possible. He cares for those who are His true followers. He protects those who are His obedient children. God loves us and does not overlook the tiniest part of our bodies. God kept the hair on Daniel's three friends perfectly fine in the burning fire.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego overcame Satan and

remained loyal to God, despite death threats and danger. They did not submit themselves to the king's command, but followed what they believed was right, and for them, obeying God was right. This is the kind of unyielding faith that we should exhibit as Christians.

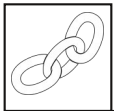
At the end, King Nebuchadnezzar came to realize that God is so powerful that He is able to overcome even death. Let's read together what he said after his realization. [Have all students read together.]

"Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! Therefore I made a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this" (3:28-30).

By braving death for God, Daniel's three friends proved to the king that God is an almighty God who is worthy of praise. King Nebuchadnezzar gave praise to God and announced it to all his people. Moreover, he also promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

When we face persecution, what do we do? Is God more important than everything else? Even when everyone else was bowing down to the gold image, Daniel's three friends firmly denied the king's authority and resolved to be faithful in God. We should attain the same courage and choose the Christian way of life, even if it means to be different from all of your friends.

We worship the same God and learn the same truth as Daniel's three friends. The Bible teaches us not to carve out an idol to represent Him and to "worship in spirit and truth" (Jn 4:24). Let's practice only the truth in our daily lives and not be afraid to show everybody that we are Christians!



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

True Jesus Church Is the Only True Church

Before Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were thrown into the furnace of burning fire, King Nebuchadnezzar pardoned them with a last warning. This was a very dangerous temptation, as the three Jews could have given up their faith and turned to the king's mercy in exchange for their lives. Nevertheless, they remained loyal to the Lord, whom they acknowledged to be the one true God. They believed that their God was the only Savior who could save them from the fiery furnace.

As present-day Christians, we may also suffer great persecution in times of tribulation. Our loyalty to True Jesus Church may bring forth conflicts and arguments with others. However, an unmovable faith like Daniel's three friends' allows us to recognize True Jesus Church as the one true church. There are many churches that preach a diluted gospel, and we must come to be fully convinced that TJC is the only church that provides salvation.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar do to promote idolatry in the province of Babylon?** He made an image of gold that he commanded all his people to worship.
- 2. How did the king find out that Daniel's three friends were not bowing to the idol?** Some Chaldeans came forward to the king and accused Daniel's three friends.
- 3. Why were Daniel's three friends not afraid of the king or the fiery furnace?** They believed that the God whom they served was able to deliver them from the burning fiery furnace, and from the king's hand."
- 4. How do you know that Daniel's three friends were thrown into an extremely hot furnace?** The flame of the fire killed the men who took Daniel's three friends to the furnace.
- 5. To what extent did the fire injure Daniel's three friends?** The fire did not injure them at all. "The hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them."
- 6. How was God's name glorified at the end of this story?** King Nebuchadnezzar praised God and promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego, Jews, Babylon
2. other gods
3. False
4. c
5. a
6. b
7. dedicated the gold image
8. some people accused them
9. He commanded his servants to heat the fiery furnace seven times more than usual, and the men who threw Daniel's three friends into the furnace were killed.
10. He did not believe that any god could save them from the fiery furnace.
11. The king made a decree that whoever spoke anything against God would be punished.
12. Practice what we profess as Christians, obey God commands even braving death, do not be afraid when facing persecutions, trust that God can deliver in all situations, etc.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. REAL-LIFE SCENARIOS

[Separate the class into two groups. Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1.1 to one group and Worksheet #1.2 to the other. Have your students complete Part I individually and Part II with their assigned groups.]

PART I: Self-Reflection

Consider each action listed below. Put a check mark if you do that action at the specified place.

[The chart is on the worksheet, but has not been reproduced here. Please refer to the worksheet if needed.]

How many check marks do you have for each action? If you do not have three for each, what does this tell you about your actions as a Christian? Are you only an "at-church" Christian? Do you only act like a Christian at church, or do you also act like a Christian at school and at home?

As Christians, we should practice what we profess at ALL TIMES. We cannot act like a Christian at church, but not at home or at school. This is not what God wants from us. Our heavenly Father is with us everywhere, and He would not be happy to see that our actions are not consistent!

PART II: Discussion

Read the story below and discuss the situation Vincent faces in the story with the rest of your group members. Use the questions at the bottom as a guide.

GROUP I: At school, Vincent and his classmates are sitting together at the table, ready to eat lunch. As Vincent is saying grace on his own quietly, his friend William says aloud, "Look, Vincent is praying to the God he learned about from the story book! He believes in everything the story book says!" Some of their other classmates start laughing with William.

GROUP II: It's Halloween this weekend and Vincent's friends have invited him to go "trick-or-treat" with them. Vincent knows that he should not celebrate Halloween as a Christian, so he politely declines their invitation and says thank you. Two days later, they ask Vincent again, and he insists not to go with them. William, who is one of these friends, begins to get angry and says to Vincent that if he does not go with them, he and his friends will never talk to him again.

Discussion Questions

1. **How do you think Vincent feels in this situation?** He was probably embarrassed/sad, afraid of losing his friendships, feeling misunderstood, etc.
2. **What would you do if you were Vincent?** Leave the table embarrassed and never say grace again when eating with the same group of friends; go trick-or-treat with William and his friends; explain to them that I feel very blessed to have this food and will always say grace before I eat; explain to them the reason that I do not celebrate Halloween; pray for God's comfort, etc.
3. **What do you think God wants Vincent to do?** God wants all of us to practice what we profess as Christians at all times. Therefore, God wants Vincent to resist his friends and remember that he is right for doing what is pleasing in God's eyes.
4. **What difficulties does Vincent face as a Christian?** He faces persecution from his friends. His friends laugh at him and threaten him with their friendships. He knows that what he is doing is right in God's eyes, but his friends do not understand. For him to say grace in front of his friends and to refrain from celebrating Halloween, he is suffering for God's name.
5. **How can Vincent apply the teachings from today's lesson into this story?** Vincent, just as Daniel's three friends, was being persecuted for his actions. They all ran into an undesired situation because of their Christian beliefs. Daniel's three friends, facing death, insisted on not bowing to the gold image. They knew that God is more important than anything else, and therefore they were not afraid of the king. Likewise, Vincent should stand by his faith and beliefs. He shouldn't be afraid of his friends who do not know God. And if he lacks comfort, he can always pray to God for faith and strength. In addition, Vincent can also preach to his friends. If his friends see that he is so persistent in his belief, they might change their attitude towards his faith and begin pursuing God!

[Teachers: When they are discussing, go to each group and facilitate their discussion if needed and/or help them brainstorm ideas. Encourage students to contribute to the discussion and let them know that one of them will be picked to report their answers back to the whole class after the discussion.]

Conclusion

Today, we may get discouraged when we face situations like these. But Daniel had three wonderful friends who were of the same mind and faith as him. Who were they? [Let students answer.] Correct. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. Daniel and these three friends joined together in their faith, faced persecution together, and glorified God's name together. Likewise, we need spiritual friends when we face persecution. Thank God, I see that all of you have many spiritual friends who are sitting around you right now! We are all here for one another. If you need spiritual strength at any time, you can be assured that there are many of us here who will encourage, lift, and brighten you up. Last but not least, we will pray for you so that God Himself will strengthen you and give you comfort and peace.

* * * * *

2. CONSISTENCY IS KEY!

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #2.]

We need friends like Daniel's three friends with us today! We need men and women of faith who will make up their minds to be consistent and faithful in their beliefs! Are you a consistent Christian? Do you live every day to the glory of God? God just wants people to be consistent in their good actions. Do you know the secrets of being consistent in your beliefs? Here are the secrets!

I. Remember that God is always with us.

"I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). Can you imagine that God is always by your side? Whether you are at home, at school, or at church, walking, talking, or sleeping, He is always there. He

knows every little thing we do, every single word we say, and even every little thought in our minds. We should always remember that God is always present around us. Even now, He's here with us! This is why we should always be consistent in our beliefs. Imagine how God feels when He walks with us each day and see our actions changing as we are with different people? He would be very hurt and disappointed as our heavenly Father.

Let's look at the real-life scenario on your worksheet:

"Vivian behaves well when she is surrounded by adults. However, when she is only with her friends at school, she is not very nice and friendly to others. Vivian's friends think that she is mean and disrespectful. One day, one of Vivian's friends said to her, 'You don't act like a Christian.'"

Questions

- 1. God, who promises to be always with us, is next to Vivian. How do you think God feels when He hears what Vivian's friend said?** Disappointed. Explain to the students that our actions and deeds tell other people a lot about us. If our actions do not correspond to our Christian beliefs, other people will not see God in us. As Christians, we should strive to shine the light of Jesus in our everyday life instead of making Him feel disappointed.
- 2. In your daily life, do you also do things that make God feel that way?** Answers may vary.

Another reason for God to be with us is to protect us. For example, in times of persecution, trials, and tribulations, we may feel threatened and afraid. But knowing that God is always with us, we can be assured that there is no one that can harm us. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Josh 1:9). God has promised to protect us wherever we go. Therefore, we should never be afraid to stand by our faith. Just as Daniel's three friends did, we should always practice what is consistent with our beliefs even when we face persecution. "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor 5:7).

II. Have daily devotional time with God.

The Bible is the word of life! Pray daily—ask for strength, faith, and grace. Never underestimate the power of prayer. Once we get into a habit of reading the Bible and praying, we will discover that God desires us to walk in obedience, minute-by-minute and day-by-day. Does that describe you? If not, there is help in Him. If you are up and down and in and out, you don't have to be! You can walk for Him and be consistent. He will enable you, just as He enabled Daniel's three friends. He will do it so that you can demonstrate the power of a consistent life.

Consider the story on your worksheet:

"Darren is going to college next year. Not only does he study very hard every day and night, but he also quit basketball, his favorite after school activity, in order to make more time for studying. Nevertheless, Darren understands that God is his priority, and therefore continues to do his daily Bible reading and praying despite how busy he is."

Questions

- 1. In order to make time for basketball, Darren could have sacrificed his daily devotional time with God. What do you think about Darren's decision to quit basketball?** Explain to the students that it is very important for us to spend time on spiritual cultivation every day in order to exercise our faith. There might be a lot of things that we like to do, but we must understand that God is always our priority. Darren has set an excellent example for us.
- 2. Are you so busy every day that you cannot make time for God? How can you apply this story to your daily life?** Students at this age may not have the habit of reading the Bible and/or praying every day. Encourage them to start a good habit of spending devotional time with God.



Activity

1. Why Persecution? / 2. Letter to God

10-15 Minutes

1. Why Persecution?

[Hand out Activity Worksheet #1 and ask the students to complete them using the Bible verses provided. Students may work in groups or individually. The answers have been listed below.]

"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Tim 3:12). The Bible tells us that we will certainly face persecution as Christians. But why? Why does God allow those who want to please Him to suffer? What should we do when we are persecuted? These are questions that a lot of people have. God in fact already provided us with all the answers. Do you know where? [Let students answer. Answer: In the Bible.]

On your Activity worksheet, there is a verse listed after each question that we are going to read together. Try to complete these questions as we read.

What are we suffering for in times of persecution? (1 Peter 1:7)

"That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Answer: For the name of Jesus Christ to be glorified.

Which quality can we produce when facing persecution? (Romans 5:3)

"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance."

Answer: Perseverance.

What did God promise to reward us with if we endure persecution for His name? (James 1:12)

"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

Answer: The crown of life, i.e., eternal life in the kingdom of God.

What should we do to our persecutors? (Matthew 5:44)

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

Answer: Love them, do good to them, and pray for them.

If we have a good conscience, what will eventually happen to our persecutors? (1 Peter 3:16)

"Having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed."

Answer: They will be ashamed.

What should our attitude be when facing persecution for Christ's sake? (1 Peter 4:13; 1 Peter 3:14)

"But rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."

"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. 'And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.'"

Answer: Be joyful, instead of afraid or troubled.

Do not be discouraged when you face persecution. God gives us these tests so that we can grow our faith and become stronger as Christians. Trials and tribulations never come to stay, but they come to strengthen us and make us better for Christ. The Bible tells us that God will never give us more than we can handle. We should not give up our faith easily because God is letting us suffer. Instead, we should pray to God for help and comfort.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were perfect examples of people that fulfilled the purpose of trials and tribulations from God. They were thrown into the blazing fire for choosing to obey God's command rather than the king's. At the end, God's name was glorified because of their immovable faith and courage.

2. Letter to God

In today's lesson, we learn about ways to be more courageous, loyal, and consistent Christians in our lives. These are ways that we will always find helpful throughout our journey of faith. Write a letter to God and tell Him what changes in life you want to make in order to become like Daniel's three friends—courageous, loyal, and consistent Christians. Tell Him how determined you are and ask Him to help you make these changes.

DANIEL'S THREE FRIENDS REFUSE TO BOW**PART I: THE GOLDEN IMAGE IS MADE**

1. King Nebuchadnezzar compelled all his people to worship a _____ set up in the plain of _____, in the province of Babylon.
2. According to the new _____, whoever did not fall down and worship the gold image would be cast immediately into a burning _____.
3. There were three _____ who did not follow this new law—Shadrach, _____, and Abed-Nego.
4. King Nebuchadnezzar said to the three friends, "And who is the god who will _____?"

PART II: SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO IN THE FIERY FURNACE

1. The king was angered by the three friends and commanded the furnace to be heated _____ times more than it was usually heated.
2. The king saw _____ men walking in the midst of the fire and the form of the fourth was like the _____.
3. After the three friends came out from the furnace, the king and his subjects realized that there was no _____ of fire on them.
4. King Nebuchadnezzar then made a _____ that any people, nation, or language which spoke anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego would be cut in pieces, and their houses would be made an _____; because there was no other God who could _____ like this.

Christians: Yes, We Are!

PART I: SELF-REFLECTION

Consider each action listed below. Put a check mark if you do that action at the specified place.

	At Home	At School	At Church
I pray on a regular basis.			
I think about God's teachings from time to time.			
I respect others.			
I am kind and friendly to others.			
I don't say bad things about others.			
I am eager to help others.			
I am aware of my responsibilities.			
I am not afraid to tell others I am a Christian.			
I talk politely.			
Other people know that I am a good person/Christian.			

PART II: DISCUSSION

Read the story below and discuss the situation Vincent faces in the story with the rest of your group members. Use the questions at the bottom as a guide.

At school, Vincent and his classmates are sitting together at the table, ready to eat lunch. As Vincent is saying grace on his own quietly, his friend William says aloud, "Look, Vincent is praying to the God he learned about from the story book! He believes in everything the story book says!" Some of their other classmates start laughing with William.



Discussion Questions

1. How do you think Vincent feels in this situation?
2. What would you do if you were Vincent?
3. What do you think God wants Vincent to do?
4. What difficulties does Vincent face as a Christian?
5. How can Vincent apply the teachings from today's lesson into this story?

Christians: Yes, We Are!

PART I: SELF-REFLECTION

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I am not afraid to tell others I am a Christian.			
I talk politely.			
Other people know that I am a good person/Christian.			

PART II: DISCUSSION

Read the story below and discuss the situation Vincent faces in the story with the rest of your group members. Use the questions at the bottom as a guide.

It's Halloween this weekend and Vincent's friends have invited him to go "trick-or-treat" with them. Vincent knows that he should not celebrate Halloween as a Christian, so he politely declines their invitation and says thank you. Two days later, they ask Vincent again, and he insists not to go with them. William, who is one of these friends, begins to get angry and says to Vincent that if he does not go with them, he and his friends will never talk to him again.



Discussion Questions

1. How do you think Vincent feels in this situation?
2. What would you do if you were Vincent?
3. What do you think God wants Vincent to do?
4. What difficulties does Vincent face as a Christian?
5. How can Vincent apply the teachings from today's lesson into this story?

Consistence Is Key!

We need friends like Daniel's three friends with us today! We need men and women of faith who will make up their minds to be consistent and faithful in their beliefs! Are you a consistent Christian? Do you live every day to the glory of God? God just wants people to be consistent in their good actions. Do you know the secrets of being consistent in your beliefs? Here are the secrets!

I. Remember that God is always with us.

"Vivian behaves well when she is surrounded by adults. However, when she is only with her friends at school, she is not very nice and friendly to others. Vivian's friends think that she is mean and disrespectful. One day, one of Vivian's friends said to her, 'You don't act like a Christian.'"



Questions

1. God, who promises to be always with us, is next to Vivian. How do you think God feels when He hears what Vivian's friend said?
2. In your daily life, do you also do things that make God feel that way?

II. Have daily devotional time with God.

"Darren is going to college next year. Not only does he study very hard every day and night, but he also quit basketball, his favorite after school activity, in order to make more time for studying. Nevertheless, Darren understands that God is his priority, and therefore continues to do his daily Bible reading and praying despite how busy he is."



Questions

1. In order to make time for basketball, Darren could have sacrificed his daily devotional time with God. What do you think about Darren's decision to quit basketball?
2. Are you so busy every day that you cannot make time for God? How can you apply this story to your daily life?

WHY PERSECUTION?

Why does God allow us to be persecuted and suffer for His name? What should we do when we are being persecuted? Let's find out from the Bible! Answer each question using the reference verse given.

What are we suffering for in times of persecution? (1 Peter 1:7)

Answer:

Which quality can we produce when facing persecution? (Romans 5:3)

Answer:

What did God promise to reward us with if we endure persecution for His name? (James 1:12)

Answer:

What should we do to our persecutors? (Matthew 5:44)

Answer:

If we have a good conscience, what will eventually happen to our persecutors? (1 Peter 3:16)

Answer:

What should our attitude be when facing persecution for Christ's sake? (1 Peter 4:13; 1 Peter 3:14)

Answer:

E2 Year 2 Book 3 Lesson 10—Daniel's Three Friends Refuse to Bow to an Idol

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (Psalm 19:14)

Fill in the Blank

1. Daniel's three friends who did not bow to the gold image were named _____, _____, and _____. They were _____ who had been exiled to _____.
2. King Nebuchadnezzar said that there was no _____ who delivered like the God Daniel's three friends worshipped.

True or False

3. The fourth person King Nebuchadnezzar saw in the fiery furnace was Daniel. _____

Multiple Choice

4. _____: King Nebuchadnezzar threw Daniel's three friends into the fiery furnace after _____.
 - a. He immediately found out that they did not bow down to the gold image he had made.
 - b. He asked them why they did not worship the gold image he had made and they did not answer.
 - c. He commanded them once again to bow down to the gold image and they refused.
5. _____: Daniel's three friends did not bow to the gold image because _____.
 - a. They knew that God is the only true God to whom they should bow down.
 - b. God appeared in their dream and told them not to bow down to the gold image.
 - c. Daniel told them not to bow down to it.
6. _____: After Daniel's three friends were thrown into the fire, King Nebuchadnezzar _____.
 - a. Was relieved and left.
 - b. Saw the three friends alive in the furnace with another man.
 - c. Sent his servants to see if they were still alive.

Short Answer

7. Before Nebuchadnezzar announced the new law to his people, what did he do to the gold image with his servants?

8. How did King Nebuchadnezzar find out that Daniel's three friends did not bow down to the gold image?

9. How do we know that King Nebuchadnezzar was very angry with Daniel's three friends for refusing to worship the gold image he had made?

10. What did King Nebuchadnezzar say about the God that Daniel's three friends worshipped before he commanded them to be thrown into the fiery furnace?

11. How was God's name glorified through Daniel's three friends' unyielding faith?

12. What can we learn from Daniel's three friends?