



## LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Is with Us in Hard Things

**SCRIPTURE:** Daniel 3

**WORD OF WONDER:** Hebrews 13:5b

Have you ever seen a runner in a distance race who is calmly and confidently running near the middle of the pack until the final two laps, when she suddenly pushes to the front and crosses the finish line first? It takes quiet confidence in your training to choose not to panic and push but to know that the work has been done. Then, when you trust in your race plan, the results will follow.

Read Daniel 3. I picture Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego with that same quiet confidence. They knew that to panic and bow to a statue would not be right before God. They knew who would hold the victory in the end. So, they stayed the course. They responded to the king that their God would deliver them. “But even if he does not” (Daniel 3:18, NIV), they would not bow down.

They were so confident God was with them—in the trial, and in the fire—that they were willing to stake their lives on it.

Do you have the quiet confidence that God is with you in difficult things? God didn’t stop the men from being thrown in the furnace; instead, He joined them in it. They may have felt the heat, but with their eyes fixed on God, they knew He was with them and would not let them perish.

—**Courtney Wilson**

Children’s Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

## LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

### THE FIERY FURNACE

#### DID YOU KNOW?

#### FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

##### WHO?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were born in Judah with the Hebrew names of Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They were exiled to Babylon after Jerusalem was conquered. Along with Daniel, they were trained for three years to serve in the king's court.

##### WHAT?

King Nebuchadnezzar builds a gold statue and decrees that when musicians play special music, everyone has to stop and bow to the statue. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, now young officials in the king's court, refuse. So, the king throws them into a blazing furnace. However, they survive with God's help.

##### WHERE?

Babylon was the capital city of the Babylonian empire, a port city on the Euphrates River that grew to be one of the most populated cities in Mesopotamia. It is the site of the Hanging Gardens, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, in modern-day Iraq.

##### WHEN?

In 605 BC, after the Egyptians were unable to stop Nebuchadnezzar, the regions of Syria, Palestine, and Judah fell under Babylonian control. At this point, Daniel and his friends were taken as captives to Babylon. In 587, Judah rebelled but lost. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.

##### CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

In the blazing furnace story, God reveals His character as our Savior. This character is most fully revealed in Jesus, who saves us from our sin and invites us to live with God forever.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Activity: Build a Furnace

**SUPPLIES:** blocks

In God's big story today, we'll hear about some friends who had to go into a fiery furnace. A furnace is a big room that has a fire in it, kind of like a fireplace. Have you seen one of those? Can you help me make a big furnace? Allow kids to work together to create a big furnace or tower using the blocks. Today we're going to see how God is with us in hard things. Going into a fiery furnace like the one we built would be really hard, but God was with the men in our story!

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD IS WITH US IN HARD THINGS.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**GOD IS**—*Point up.*

**WITH US**—*Hold arms out wide and then hug yourself.*

**IN HARD THINGS.**—*Stomp your foot with each word.*



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## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for all the good things in our lives. We know that sometimes hard things happen. Holy Spirit, help us see You in those times and to hear from You in our story today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

### Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 247-250  
Fiery Furnace

### Word of Wonder

#### WORD OF WONDER

**God has said, "I will never leave you."**

—Hebrews 13:5b