GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Four Figures in the Fire

Daniel 3:1-30



YOUR BIBLE READING

Faithfulness trusts God without demanding a guaranteed rescue.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

A Command They Could Not Follow

Daniel 3:1-30



King Nebuchadnezzar set up a great golden image on the plain of Dura in Babylon. He called officials from many parts of the kingdom to its dedication. A herald announced that, when the music sounded, everyone must bow down and worship the image. The command reached people of different nations and languages. Refusal carried a terrible threat: the person who would not bow would be thrown into a burning furnace.

When the instruments sounded, people fell down before the image. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not worship it. They served within Babylon's government, yet their service to the king did not mean worshiping the gods he commanded them to honor. Other men reported them. They told Nebuchadnezzar that the three Jewish officials had not obeyed his decree. The king became furious and had the friends brought before him.

Nebuchadnezzar asked whether the report was true and offered them another chance. When the music played again, they could bow. Otherwise, they would face the furnace immediately. He challenged the idea that any god could rescue them from his power. The issue was now stated plainly. The friends were being asked to place the king's command above their worship of God, with their lives threatened if they refused.

Their answer did not claim that the fire was harmless. They said that the God they served was able to deliver them. Yet even if rescue did not come, they would not serve the king's gods or worship his image. This was a serious declaration of faithfulness, not a way of bargaining for guaranteed comfort. They named what they would do before they knew how the dangerous situation would end.

Remember: I can honor God even when I do not know what will happen.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Someone Else in the Fire

Daniel 3:1-30



The king ordered the furnace made hotter and commanded strong soldiers to bind the three friends and throw them in. The heat was deadly even to those carrying out the order. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell into the fire still tied up. The account does not describe an escape arranged before they entered. It tells of real danger and of the king using his power in a cruel and reckless way.

Then Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace and sprang up in astonishment. He asked his advisers whether three bound men had been thrown inside. Now he could see four figures walking freely, unharmed. The fourth looked to him like a heavenly being. The story reports the king's description without asking us to identify the figure more precisely than the account does. The friends were no longer bound, and they were not alone.

The king went near the opening and called the three servants of the Most High God to come out. They emerged. The assembled officials examined them and saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies. Their hair was not singed, their clothes were unchanged, and they did not even smell of fire. These details underline how extraordinary the deliverance was. The furnace had been dangerous, but the friends had been protected within it.

Nebuchadnezzar praised their God, saying that God had sent his angel to rescue servants who trusted him. He recognized that they had refused to worship another god even at the risk of their lives. His response also included a harsh royal decree and promotion for the friends. The central wonder remains their rescue. Before they saw it happen, they had already chosen faithfulness; afterward, even the ruler who threatened them had to acknowledge God's power.

Pause and think: What could faithful courage look like in a difficult choice that also requires wise help?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Faithfulness Before the Outcome



The friends' answer includes an important phrase: even if rescue did not come. They trusted God's ability without pretending to control the result. We should not use this account to tell someone who has been hurt that they lacked faith. The furnace story is a particular deliverance. People who suffer still deserve respect, protection, and care, and their faith cannot be measured simply by whether danger passed them by.

The fourth figure is described through the king's words, and he later speaks of an angel. The account leaves us with the wonderful picture of the three friends no longer being alone. We can appreciate that picture without inventing the figure's name or appearance. When reading carefully, leaving a question open can be more faithful than supplying an answer the passage does not require.

No child should imitate a dangerous test with fire. In everyday life, standing for what is right can include telling a safe adult when someone threatens or pressures you. Courage may mean refusing to join cruelty while seeking protection. The king's harshness is part of the danger in this story, not a pattern for how children should treat people who worship differently.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Faithfulness honors God before the outcome is known and does not depend on demanding a guaranteed rescue.

What could faithful courage look like in a difficult choice that also requires wise help?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Would the friends worship the image if they were not rescued?

2. What surprised the king when he looked into the furnace?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ They were thrown into the furnace, where the king saw four figures.
- ☐ The three friends came out unharmed.
- ☐ The friends refused to worship the golden image.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw four simple figures together, using warm colors for the scene.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

I can honor God even when I do not know what will happen.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Daniel 3:17-18

A thoughtful conversation

The king describes the fourth figure with divine language and later calls the rescuer an angel. The retelling leaves the figure's precise identity open. Never encourage testing safety with fire.

Activity answers

1. No. They had chosen to remain faithful either way.
2. He saw four figures walking freely and unharmed instead of three tied men.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, help us be faithful and seek help when we face danger. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Daniel 3:1-30. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 27_Da_03_08_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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