

Firm in Flame:

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

GETTING STARTED:

Read **Psalm 61:3**

You have been my protection,
Like a strong tower against my enemies.

Split into two team and gather something you can build into a tower e.g. wooden blocks, Lego, books, tins, boxes. Set a timer and see which group can build the tallest tower in a given time. Discuss the idea that God is our protection. What are some of the ways we need his protection?

DIGGING IN:

Ask the family to think of sound effects to represent anger, fear, fire and peace. They should also create a fanfare. Allocate the sounds effect to different members of the family. Tell the story, putting the sound effects in when it is appropriate. The fanfare group should play each time the King issues a proclamation, the fire group each time fire is mentioned. The anger and fear groups are thinking about the King's reactions and the peace group are thinking about the three men.

Read the story from a children's bible or straight from the Bible, choosing a simple translation such as the CEV, IEB or the Living Bible. It is the whole of Daniel chapter 3. After the story congratulate everyone on their use of the sound effects! Discuss the following:

- Why did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refuse to bow down even though they knew their lives were at risk?
- How did God protect the three men? Why did God protect them? Do you think that God still protects us today?
- Can you think of a time when you were tempted to lie or not make the right choice because you were afraid what might happen to you?
- What can we learn from this story about the importance of living true to what we believe?
- What kind of situations do you find difficult to stand firm in?
- God didn't stop Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego being thrown into the furnace, but he was with them in the fire and saved them. Why do you think he choose to save them in this way? At times God allows the circumstances in our lives to be challenging, but he is with us in them and helps us through. Do you have examples of this from your lives?

CRAFT:

Have a go at making a horn and bring it along with you to the Vineyard Kids Family Service. Here are some ideas:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIOcJUF4UMA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1EoNbaq-dw>

RESPONSE:

Write this verse out on card:

"By standing firm you will gain life."

Luke 21.19

Split the family group in half. Ask one half to read the verse aloud and then ask the other half to repeat the words back. Repeat together doing the following actions:

Sit down on 'By'

Stand up on 'standing'

Sit down on 'firm'

Stand up on 'you'

Sit down on 'will'

Stand up on 'gain'

And stay standing on 'life' and put arms in the air in a 'hooray' gesture.

Now one half say the verse while the others stand up and sit down. Then swap over. You can have a race and see who can remember the verse, standing and sitting down, and finish first.

Think again about the times when it is hard to stand firm (from the 'Digging In' questions) and pray for each other that God would protect and help you.

Adapted from Urban Saints: Energize Resources