

End Time - November 29

Parents: In the book of Daniel we learn about three men who stood firm to the end. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were willing to give up their lives instead of worshipping another god in the form of a golden image. They loved the Lord and put Him first. Let's take a look at history with our child and see how we can apply these lessons to our lives.

Read: Matthew 24:13 ...but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. Daniel 3:12-30 But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up." 13 Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, 14 and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? 15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual 20 and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.21 So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. 22 The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, 23 and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, 27 and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Discuss: Wow! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were willing to give up their lives instead of worshipping another god in the form of a golden image. Why did King Nebuchadnezzar throw the three men into the blazing furnace? *They would not worship the image of gold.* How did God save the three men? *He sent an angel to protect them.*



The verse from Matthew 24:13 says, "but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved." Do you think Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego were willing to stand for God no matter what? Yes! They knew that going to the furnace meant death, but they trusted God and His plan. Do you think they could have saved themselves all on their own? No, they couldn't. You know what? Not only did God save them, He sent Jesus to save us. We can't do it all on our own either

How can you apply what we learned about these men to your life? Speak up for the Lord, share His Word with others, pray for courage and faithfulness, etc.

Key Point: Jesus Saves Me

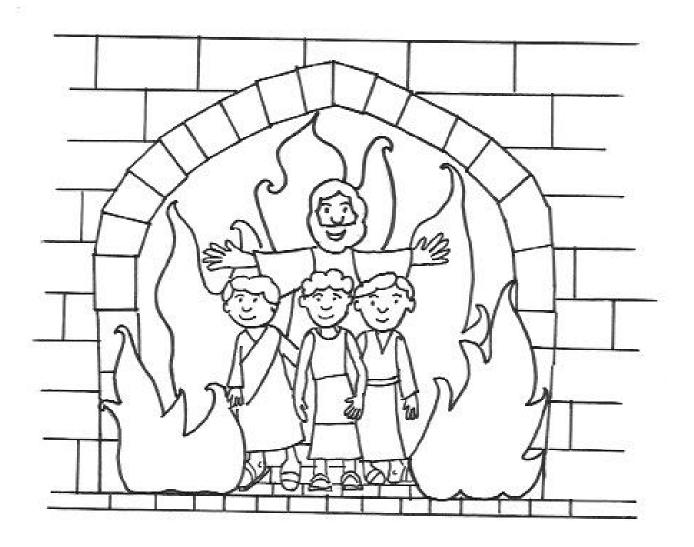
Jesus (Place pointer finger in center of opposite palm) Saves Me (Hug yourself and then point to your heart)

Family Activity: We may not have to face a fiery furnace, but there are times when our struggles may feel like trial by fire. Let's make a visual reminder that Jesus saves us. If you received the craft packet, cut out the flames and glue the smaller flame on top of the larger one. Draw wood grain on the cardstock square. Stick the flames ½" through the slit and tape on the backside of the cardstock. Lastly, curl the cardstock in a roll and tape it secure.

Prayer: Dear God, We praise You for guiding and protecting us through tough times. Give us the courage and strength to follow You no matter what. Thank You for saving us by sending Jesus. Help us share this with others. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize Matthew 24:13 - ...But the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.





Jesus Saves Me!

...but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Matthew 24:13