

# Lesson 9: I Will Stand Up for God Like Three Friends

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Learn that we need to stand for God, even when it is very hard.
- 2) Learn the account of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. (Daniel 3:1-30)
- 3) Understand that faith in God gives us courage to stand up for what is right even when we are alone.

**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

## Supplies:

### Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Lesson Review Visual Aids – one for teacher to share at the beginning of each class from lesson 2
- Daniel Chapter 3 Visual Aids – one copy for class to share
- I Will Stand Up Activity Sheet – one per student

### Optional:

- Faith and Standing Strong Songs – two on a page, one set per student cut out before class
- Scrap paper pieces (small) – 8; 4 for each team

### Snack:

- Red, Yellow, Orange Pepper Slices (to represent fiery furnace) a few per student
- Napkin one per student
- Water/Cup one per student

## Lesson:

### 1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

\*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students.

Show the lesson review visual aid sheet.

**Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at the picture, name what happened for the lesson we have already studied, and what we learned from that lesson.**



**Lesson 1:** We should stay focused on Jesus. We do so by 1) getting rid of things that stop us from focusing 2) we work in all things with Jesus in mind, and 3) we think of Jesus throughout the day.

**Lesson 2:** We need to put God first by loving Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.

**Lesson 3:** We need to seek God and we can do so like Jesus by taking some quiet time every day to pray.

**Lesson 4:** We are to love others as ourselves. Meaning we need to go out of our way to show love to others by our words, thoughts, prayers and actions.

**Lesson 5:** We can be brave like Esther and Mordecai who stood up and took responsibility to help others.

**Lesson 6:** We can be determined and persistent like the four friends who had enough faith to keep trying to bring their friend to Jesus.

**Lesson 7:** We can be daring by giving our all like the widow did when she gave all she had to live on to the Lord knowing He would care for her.

**Lesson 8:** We can be ready to serve and listen like Samuel who served God his entire life and was willing to act when called to serve.

## 2) We Can Stand Up for God

5 minutes

**Who are the heroes we have studied so far?** Esther, Mordecai, Four Friends, the Widow, and Samuel.

**What were the things that made them heroes?** Courage, faith, bravery, persistence, daring, giving, determined, ready to serve, listen and to do what was needed and right.

**The important thing is that they all had a strong faith in God which gave them courage to make the right choices knowing that God is real and able to help us.**

**Today's heroes are three friends. When called to worship a false idol, they refused knowing that their willingness to only worship God could cost them their lives. They stood up for God and as we will learn today – we need to stand up for God too!**

## 3) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

10-15 minutes

\*Have visual aids ready.

Have students turn to **Daniel chapter 3.**

Read **Daniel 3:1-30.** Provide visuals for students to look at while you or volunteers take turn reading.



Ask:

**What did King Nebuchadnezzar want people to do?** Bow down to a gold statue.

**Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do this?** No, they refused to worship the king's false gods and golden statue.

**What did the king threaten to do to them?** Throw them into a fiery furnace.

**Look at verses 16-18 again. What do these verses say about the three brave men's faith?** They believed and trusted God totally and were willing to die because of their faith.

**How did this experience change King Nebuchadnezzar?** He acknowledges that God is the only and true God and said that anyone who speaks against God will be punished.

**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not give in when King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to throw them into the furnace for not bowing to his statue. They knew that God would be with them. They trusted that their decision was the right choice. In Daniel 3:18, they said that even if God did not save them from the flaming furnace, they would still not bow down to the golden statue. They knew what was right and stood strong in their decision, despite any fear they had.**

**How can we stand up for God at home? At school? When we go out?** Let students answer.

**What was the three friend's faith like?** Strong.

**Do you think having friends in the church is important?** Let students answer.

**These three friends all believed in God and all encouraged each other to do the right thing. It is important to have friends who encourage us to do right. If we have friends who try to get us to do wrong things, then they are not our friends and we need to look for better friends.**

**Let's try and find friends in the church and at school who want to do what is right and let us encourage our friends to do what is right as well.**

What can we learn from this story? Let students answer.

Not only are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego saved, but there is a great change of heart in King Nebuchadnezzar. He now decrees that if anyone speaks against the God of Israel, those persons and their property will be destroyed.

These three men were brave and their faith in God was stronger than the fear of pain or death. Are there such people today who have such brave faith? Missionaries, people who go door to door to preach, those in countries that face serious persecution for believing and worshipping God but choose to do right and worship Him anyway, even though they might die because of it, etc.

What makes a person brave? Let students answer.

Sometimes a person will do something foolish or harmful to try to show bravery. Can you think of an example of this? Let students answer.

Is this really being brave? No!

What is true bravery? Doing something because it is the right thing to do, despite your fears, not doing it to show off, or to prove something.

It is sad that some people are given the sentence of death because of the supposed "crime" of believing in God. But we know that even if we or others die, that it is only our physical bodies. Our spiritual bodies, when we believe and follow Jesus, go to heaven to be with Jesus and all believers for eternity. Death is not final when you have faith and obedience in God!

#### 4) I Will Stand Up Activity Sheets

15 minutes

Hand out one set of sheets to each student along with pencils and/or pencil crayons. Read the directions aloud, help as needed.

Discuss questions and ideas as a class. Relate these to the lesson: **We should be able to stand up to do right because like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego we also have faith in God. And that even though we might not be thrown in a fire because of our belief in God, we need to stand up in all the little ways we are called to do, even when/if our friends won't stand up with us. We can choose to stand up for God and do right!**

**Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - Daniel 3:1-20**

**Prerogative**

Read each situation. In each case how can they do best? How can you stand up for best?

**Situation 1**

The teachers leave the classroom while the bell is in progress. She tells the students that they are on their knees. As soon as the principal enters the classroom she tells them about a way they could cheat. Everyone wants to stand to cooperate enough for Kyle. She wants to do what is right or not.

**Situation 2**

The basketball team is practicing in a vacant lot. A ball is accidentally hit through the window of a neighboring house. The homeowner comes out confused. The team agrees to help pay for the window. That is all but Logan. He wants to do what is right or not.

**Read the statements below. Circle the letter that comes for your answer: true, false, or unsure.**

- It is harder to go along with the gang than to stand for what is right.  T  F
- It is better to do what is right than to be the most popular person in school.  T  F
- There are kids in your class who would follow you if you ever learn to stand up for what is right.  T  F
- Other kids would respect you even if they didn't follow you.  T  F
- You are really all alone when you are trying to do what is right.  T  F

**Maze Alphabet Game** - Go through the maze picking up letters along the way. What does it spell?

**Draw a picture of the 3 men in the furnace and the man that Nebuchadnezzar could look like the son of the gods.**

#### 5) Lesson Review

5-10 minutes

Say: **There was someone in the fire with the three men. Someone who protected them and helped them from the fire. Who do you think he was? Let students answer.**

**The truth is we don't know. Daniel 3:25 says that King Nebuchadnezzar said the fourth man was like "a son of the gods." Who do we know is the Son of God? Jesus.**

**Do you think the fourth man was Jesus? Let students answer.**

**Jesus hadn't yet lived on the earth as a man, but John tells us in John 1:1-3 that Jesus has been around from the very beginning of creation. And we know that everything was created through Him.**

**This was the hardest, scariest thing that these three young men would have ever faced. Can you imagine going through that hot furnace knowing that you might die? Yet God made sure someone was with them in that furnace to help them. And we know that the Bible tells us that Jesus helps us in our hard times too! Hebrews 13:5 tells us that God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Forsake means give up on. God will never give up on us or leave us. You might choose to leave God, but He will never leave you. Isn't God wonderful? Isn't it nice to know we have Jesus with us always just like the three men did?**

Have you ever had to stand strong for Jesus? Maybe you had to say no to some of the things your friends were doing? Maybe you had to stand up to a friend who was trying to be mean to another person? Or who was saying bad words? Maybe you decided to tell them that you believe in Jesus and go to church services even if or when they laughed at you or called you names?

When we stand up for Jesus, it makes Him very happy, because He knows that we love Him and will stand up for Him, like He stands up for us. We can stand for Jesus no matter how old we are. We can stand up for Jesus even if some or all of our family does not. You can make a huge difference when you stand for Jesus. Remember, what happened when King Nebuchadnezzar saw what happened? He worshiped God and said that everyone needed to respect God. That was a huge difference from the guy that was willing to kill people because they didn't worship his useless statue! When we stand for Jesus, not only will Jesus stand for us, but we can show people the light of Christ when we do.

What did we learn today? Let students answer.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego must have known that they could die if they were caught. Yet they still decided to stand strong. They would not bow down to the statue. Why would they not bow down? Let students answer.

They would only bow down to the real, true God, the God that rescued Israel from Egyptian slavery, the God who took care of them in Babylon. They knew it was wrong to bow down to the statue because the statue was not God. The statue had not created them, saved them, or protected them. The statue never did anything. God alone is the true God that everyone needs to worship. Not other people, things, or ideas. That's why they said to King Nebuchadnezzar: "we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 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. 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." Daniel 3:16-18.

What did you like best about today's Bible lesson?

What questions do you have about today's lesson?

## 6) Optional: Name the Hero Game

5-10 minutes

**Before class:** Have 8 small pieces of paper and 2 pencils – and divide them – one set for each team.

Split the class into two teams, ensuring older students are with younger students.

Explain that: **Each group is going to take turns to try and name the hero you are describing. You won't just be mentioning heroes that have been studied so far, but other heroes from the Bible as well. You will start with team 1 and give them a clue. They are to write down quietly the answer after discussing it. They should not say it out loud because if they get it wrong, the other team gets a guess and if they know what the other team guessed, it will help them win.**

**I will look at the paper and see if the team is right. If they are right, I will let them say the answer out loud and they will get a point. Then team 2 gets to try and answer from a clue given and name the hero quietly as well by writing it down.**

**Ready?** See list of clues below and the hero you are describing. Only mention the clue and not the name of the person until they have written down and given the correct answer. Keep track of score.

Stood strong for God by fasting, praying, and going to the king to save people	<b>Esther</b>
Stood strong for God by being obedient to God and died on a cross.	<b>Jesus</b>
Stood strong for God and gave all she had.	<b>Widow</b>
Stood strong for God by being determined to help their friend even though it meant being very persistent.	<b>Four friends who helped man who was paralyzed</b>
Stood strong for God by serving Him his whole life by being ready to serve and listen.	<b>Samuel</b>
Stood strong for Jesus by preaching about Him even when he faced being shipwrecked, imprisoned, beaten and run out of towns.	<b>Paul</b>
Stood strong for God by standing up to a giant who was saying bad things about God and His people.	<b>David</b>
Stood strong for God by going to the king and asking that God's people who were enslaved go free.	<b>Moses</b>

### 7) I Will Follow Songs

5-10 minutes

Sing, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" that relates to this lesson from the "I Will Follow Songs" sheets. Sing once or twice and then choose other songs if time.

And/or hand out one set of Faith and Standing Strong songs from lesson – give one set per student. Sing the first song, read out loud as a group the poem.

### 8) Optional: Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **John 14:6** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: "*I am the way*" a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point ahead when you say "the way", point to their Bibles when they say "truth", etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

### John 14:6

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

### 9) Optional – Snack: Red, Orange, Yellow Pepper Slices

5 minutes

Hand out a few pieces to each student, ensuring you check for allergies first. Say, **this snack is to remind us about our lesson today. Raise your hand if you remember what our lesson was about?**

We can be strong and stand up for God like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

**What do these pepper slices remind you of?** Fire of different colors.

**If you would like, you can wave your pepper slices around like in the way a fire moves and then eat them to show that God can conquer fire!**

**As we eat our snack, let's think of ways we can stand up for Jesus.** Let students come up with answers.

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands if needed. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking. What did they like best about today's Bible reading? What questions do they have about today's lesson?

## **10) Close in prayer**

\*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Before praying say:

**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were faithful to God, but it still must have been scary for them to be thrown into the furnace. We can pray to God when we are scared or when we are thankful. We can pray to God anytime because God always hears our heartfelt prayers.**

**Thank You Lord for all You provide us. Thank You for Your Son who died so we can live for eternity with You in Heaven. Thank You for coming to each one of us and calling us to have a wonderful relationship with You, not only on earth, but in heaven forever. Thank You for those in our lives who are ready to serve You and stand up for You.**

**Help us to take the time to devote and dedicate our lives to You, with all our mind, soul, heart and strength. For You are worthy, good, awesome, and loving towards us. Give us wisdom Lord, so we can serve and love others and You, even now at our young age. Help us be brave and stand strong. To take joy in working hard for You. Pray for those who could not be here today, and pray for those here who have special issues in their life. Be with them, guide, comfort, and bless them. Help us to stay focused on Jesus and be brave in making the right choices this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**