

Explore It

FOR LEADERS

OCTOBER
SESSION 05

NO COMPLAINTS! – SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO

Daniel 3 The gold idol and the blazing furnace

In our final session we find three men who faithfully followed God even when they had plenty to complain about. King Nebuchadnezzar threatened them with the fiery furnace, but they chose to worship God no matter what.

Each child will need:

→ Resources to make a lantern or stained-glass window – see 'Action It' section

Start It

● **Say:** Our starter for today will definitely get you up and moving. It gives us a sneak preview of the story we will be focusing on today. Don't worry about singing along, just see if you can follow the actions.

Video

'Shadrach, Meshach and Abendego' by Lutheran Church of Hope (2 mins 47 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE1AFgt-TSQ

Sing It

● **Say:** Here's our final chance to share our memory verse together.

Give the children an opportunity to share their memory verse and then sing the song together. Don't forget that the song adapts the first line to 'Don't live [any longer] the way this world lives.'

'Romans 12:2' (memory verse song) by Hillsong Kids (2 mins)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuKnEeomG_w

Tell It

● **Say:** Our Bible story today focuses on three friends we have met before. Their names are Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. In last week's story they spent time praying with Daniel when King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to have them all killed! Unfortunately, King Nebuchadnezzar continued to live his life in a way that did not honour God. Watch the clip to find out what happened.

Video

The fiery furnace Bible story by Kids on the Move (6 mins 37 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=duyQTMKA4Wk

● **Say:** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were taken away from their home to a different country when Israel was defeated by King Nebuchadnezzar. Despite all that they faced, the three men continued to faithfully follow God.

Ask: What did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego do every day that showed they followed God?

🗨️ **Say:** The people of Babylon did not believe in the same God as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Ask:

➔ How do you think they felt, living in a place like Babylon that did not believe in God?

➔ Do you ever feel like that as a Christian today? If so, how?

🗨️ **Say:** King Nebuchadnezzar decided to build a huge golden statue of himself for the people to worship. On three different occasions, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to worship the statue.

Ask: What was the king's punishment for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?

🗨️ **Say:** Despite the threat of being put into a fiery furnace – a giant burning oven – the three men were not afraid. Instead we read in Daniel 3:16-18 that they stood up to the king.

Read:

'Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered the king. They said, "Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves to you. You can throw us into the blazing furnace. The God we serve is able to save us from the furnace and your power. If he does this, it is good. But even if God does not save us, we want you, our king, to know this: we will not serve your gods. We will not worship the gold statue you have set up."'

— (Daniel 3:16-18 ICB)

🗨️ **Say:** Unlike the other Bible characters we have met this month, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to complain. They knew God was faithful and, whether they were saved from the fire or not, they promised to worship the one true God.

Ask: What does the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego teach us about how to follow God in challenging circumstances?

🗨️ **Say:** Just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, we can be assured that God is with us in every fiery situation that we face. We just need to trust in him and remember what a faithful God we serve.

Action It

🗨️ **Say:** Around this time of year we are often surrounded by scary things. The shops are full of Halloween posters, with dummies dressed up as zombies and witches, and cobwebs everywhere. For some people it can be quite frightening.

Ask: How do you feel when you walk into a shop and see all these things?

🗨️ **Say:** It can be a challenging time of year for Christians, as we may feel pressured to join in with a celebration that focuses on the darkness in our world. Unlike Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, we don't face the threat of the fiery furnace, but we may feel uncomfortable with all that is happening around us at this time of year. Instead of joining in with the Halloween parties, many Christians across the world take part in an alternative celebration called 'All Hallows' Eve' or 'All Saints' Eve'.

Ask: Have you heard of this celebration before?

🗨️ **Say:** Let's watch the clip together and discover more about it.

Video

All Saints' Day by Kids' Talk (2 mins 9 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRFgPCKx_6E

🗨️ **Say:** All Hallows' Eve and All Saints' Day celebrate the people we know who have faithfully followed God throughout their lives. They are the people like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who followed God when it was tempting to live the same way as everyone else.

Lantern / Stained-glass window

For today's activity the children will make a lantern or stained-glass window to remind them of our memory verse for October. Options are listed below, but the main aim of the activity is to create something that is even more beautiful when the light shines through it. The Scripture reference Romans 12:2 can also be included on the children's creation. The ideas below are just for reference and you can adapt them depending on your craft skills and budget.

Options:

- Baker Ross - Lantern Kits – www.bakerross.co.uk/lanterns
- DIY Glowing Lanterns Project for Kids – www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVmtVPIXPgE
- Easy Craft Ideas: How to make stained glass with tissue paper – www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHax38AtEul

When the children have completed their lanterns, gather them together to share October's memory verse. This time together should move smoothly into the 'Pray It' section.

Pray It

- **Say:** Our memory verse for this month reminds us to live differently, following the way that God chooses for our lives. When we choose to follow God, then his light shines out of each one of us. As you hold your creations, let's share together a song that reminds us about Jesus as the light that shines in the darkness of this world.

'Here I am to worship' by Kids' Praise Company (4 mins 22 secs)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4sZu1ouO9E

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

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FOR ME

TOGETHER



Reflect

Watch the clip from this week's session that tell us all about All Saints' Day.

All Saints' Day by Kids' Talk

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRFgPCkx_6E

Spend some time thanking God for the people in your life, and throughout history, who have lived their lives faithfully following God.



Share

Now is the perfect time to share with the people at home everything you have discovered during your October *Explore It* sessions.

You can tell them about

- ➔ Naaman
- ➔ Jonah
- ➔ Jeremiah
- ➔ Daniel
- ➔ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Share your memory verse with them and show them your light-filled creation. Most importantly, you can live your life in a way that shows that the light of Jesus is shining within you.



Song for the week

'Romans 12:2' (memory verse song) by Hillsong Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuKnEomG_w



Memory verse

'Don't live the way this world lives.

Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.'

— (Romans 12:2 *NIRV*)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

