

Daniel 3

³ King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide...

⁴ Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: ⁵ As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

⁷ Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

¹² 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[c] 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."

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."

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.

Notes for Leaders

Preparation

- WHAT YOU NEED TO PRE-ORDER-

- Cardboard boxes, large rubber bands, for making instruments, Tubs for drums, straws (plastic) for making pipes wider straws for different sounds.
- Coloured red, orange yellow Paper or tissue paper for making flame pom-poms. some tape and card to tie the strips of paper too.

1. Crafting instruments

Using recycling, cardboard boxes, large rolls, drinking straws (to make pipes) let the young people make instruments.

2. Fanning the flame

Make flames for the story, we need lots of flames when the story is told. Using tissue paper in orange, red, blue and yellow cut into strips and stapled, or taped or glued to a piece of card for the young people to fan. As part of the interactive session the young people can be part of the story telling.

3. Colouring-In

Decorate your instruments, and the colouring sheet of old style instruments.

Illustration to Grab Attention

In this session you will be making it interactive. Get the young people to make the craft instruments, and paper flames to be part of the story. Have a leader act out being the King. Get three volunteers (young people) acting out being Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, being thrown into the fire. Get more of your young people to be the fire using the pom pom flames, and then the king getting angry and wanting more of your young people fanning making the fire x7 hotter.

The King's Golden Statue

King Nebuchadnezzar built a huge golden statue and commanded everyone to bow down and worship it. He warned that anyone who refused would be thrown into a fiery furnace. But Daniel's three friends—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—refused to bow because they only worshipped God.

Daniel 3:17-18 (NIV) says: "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it... 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."

Thrown Into the Furnace

The king was furious and ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter. The three men were tied up and thrown in. The heat was so intense that the soldiers who threw them in were killed! But something amazing happened.

God's Protection

When the king looked into the furnace, he was shocked. Instead of three men, he saw four! The fourth looked like "a son of the gods." God had sent an angel to protect them. When they came out, they weren't burned at all—not even their clothes smelled of fire!

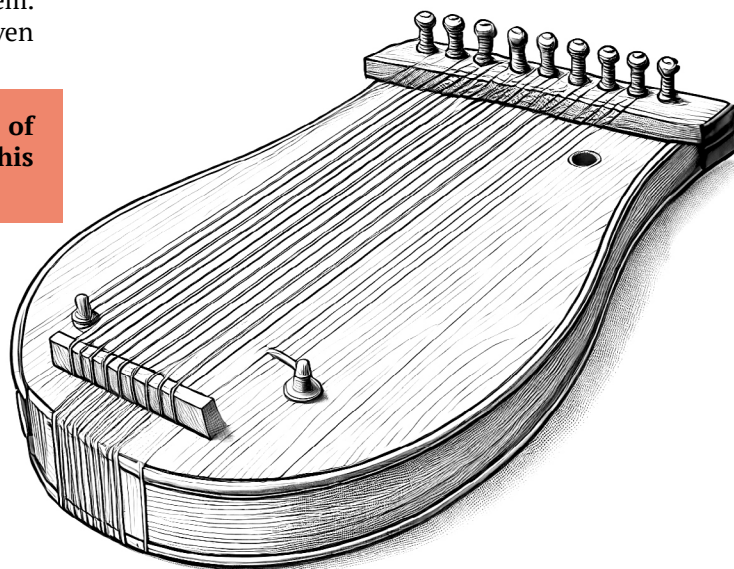
Daniel 3:28 (NIV) says: **"Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants!"**

Lesson for Today

Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we should stand firm in our faith, even when it's hard. God is always with us, protecting and strengthening us. We may face difficult situations, but we can trust that God will never leave us.

Key Takeaways:

- Stand firm in your faith, even when others pressure you to do wrong.
- God is always with us, even in tough times.
- Trusting God brings protection and blessings.
- Let's be brave like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and trust God no matter what!

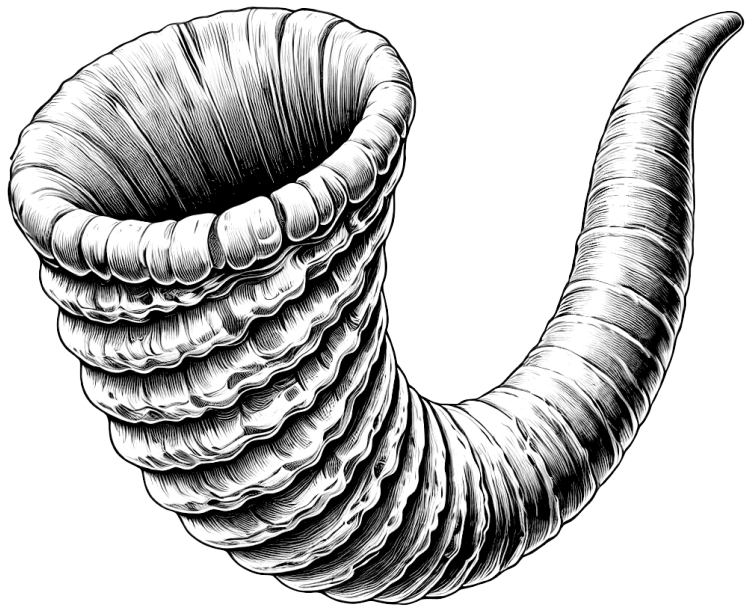
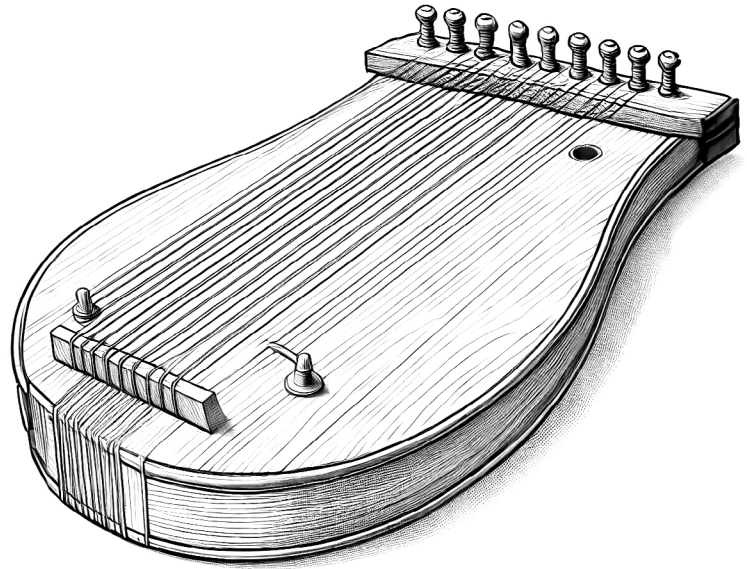


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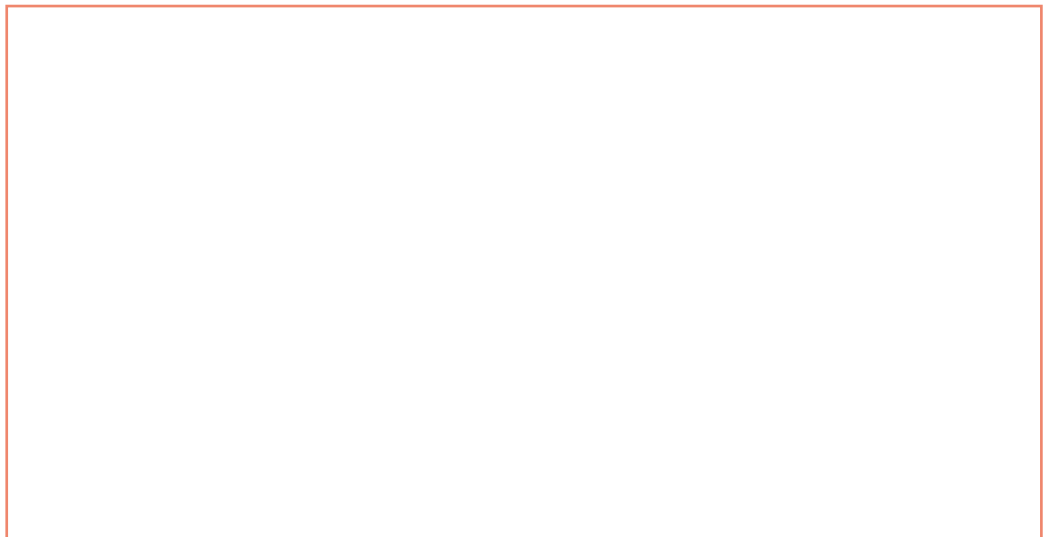
Like Daniel, we can turn to God for wisdom when we face difficult situations. No matter how impossible something seems, God can give us understanding and help us through. Trusting in Him and seeking His guidance will lead to blessings and favor.

Key Takeaways:

- Trusting God in difficult situations brings wisdom and guidance.
- Prayer is powerful, and God answers when we seek Him.
- God's kingdom is eternal, and His plans are greater than earthly ones.
- Let's choose to trust God's wisdom in every challenge we face, just as Daniel did!



Design your own
instrument in the box...



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.”