

FIERY MOSAICS (*application activity*)

What You Need: “Fiery Furnace Figures” Activity Page; red, orange, and yellow tissue paper, cut or torn into small strips; cups of white glue mixed with water, enough water to make glue paintable but not watery; paintbrushes

What You Do:

- Set out the tissue paper, glue cups, and paintbrushes and give each child a “Fiery Furnace” activity page.
- Have kids place the dry tissue, all three colors mixed up, on top of the Activity Page. P
- Paint over the dry tissue paper with the glue mixture. The tissue will turn transparent and will stick to the page.
- Let kids cover their papers with the tissue, mosaic style, and brush on the glue mixture.

What You Say:

As they are covering their paper, “How cool! When the tissue covered the paper, you could see the three friends—barely—just like when they were first thrown into the furnace.”

As they are painting, “But when you painted over the glue mixture, you could see the fourth figure in the furnace! When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up for what was right, even the king could see God.”

When we do the right thing, we’re showing other people who God is and what He’s like.

- 1) When you are kind to someone who is left out, what might that person learn about God? (*God is loving or kind.*)
- 2) How about if you refuse to cheat on homework even if everyone else is? (*God is fair or God cares about what we do, or that God can help us focus on our own work.*)
- 3) What about if something embarrassing happened to your sister, and you keep quiet about it, even when your best friend wants you to share all the news? (*God is trustworthy, God helps you love your sister.*)
- 4) Share a time when you stood up for what was right and were able to show what God is like.

That just shows you that **when you stand for what is right, others can see God.**

FAST JUMP (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: A jump rope

What You Do:

One by one, have kids say the verse as they jump. One word per jump. See who can get the farthest in the verse without stopping. If you have more than one child, maybe try doing it double-dutch style. Have them jump together while saying the verse and see who can last longest.

What You Say:

You are such great jumpers! It got tiring, didn’t it, especially if you messed up and had to start over? That’s like our verse: **‘Don’t ever get tired of doing what is good.’** We still mess up and don’t always do what’s best, but just like in our game, we get to start over and ask for God’s help. Even when we mess up in life and ask for God’s forgiveness, people can still see that God is forgiving and wants to help us do the right thing. So even though we’re not perfect, **when you stand for what’s right, others can see God.**

THREE HEROES *(review the Bible story)*

What You Do:

If you have one child you could just ask the review questions. If you have more than one, make it a game. Have kids create a pose for three different action heroes such as Batman, Superman, and Spider-Man.

After the poses are decided, establish how each super hero is superior to one of the others and inferior to another. IE: Batman defeats Superman; Superman defeats Spider-Man; Spider-Man defeats Batman. (Like rock-paper-scissors)

Explain that they will stand back-to-back with each other. Have them close their eyes. At your signal they must strike one of the poses they created. Once posed, they can open their eyes and turn to see who won the match. The winning player gets to answer one of the following review questions and earn a point. Play again until all of the review questions have been asked and answered. The winning team is the one with the most points.

1. How tall was the statue King Nebuchadnezzar built? *(90 feet)*
2. What was the statue made of? *(Gold)*
3. What was the signal for everyone to bow down and worship the statue? *(Music was played)*
4. What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to do? *(Bow down and worship the statue)*
5. What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego believe God was powerful enough to do? *(Rescue them from the furnace)*
6. How did King Nebuchadnezzar react when he found out that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had not worshiped the statue? *(He was angry and ordered them to be thrown into the fiery furnace)*
7. What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego say they wouldn't do even if God didn't rescue them from the fiery furnace? *(They would still refuse to worship the statue or serve the gods of Babylon)*
8. Why wouldn't Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worship the statue? *(Because they were determined to worship only God.)*
9. What would you have done if you had been in the crowd that day?
10. What made the king surprised when he looked into the fiery furnace? *(Four people were walking around in the fire and they weren't tied up or burned up)*
11. What new law did the king make when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the furnace unharmed? *(No one could say anything bad about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's God)*
12. How much hotter than usual was the furnace heated before Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into it? *(Seven times)*
13. What was the condition of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they came out of the furnace? *(The fire had not burned them at all and they didn't even smell like smoke)*
14. What did God do to save Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? *(He protected them from the fire and sent an angel)*
15. What is today's Bottom Line? *(When you stand for what's right, others can see God.)*

Fiery furnace. Golden statues. Kings. Idols. There's a lot about today's lesson that might be hard for today's kids to relate to. Help them bridge the gap between the less relatable parts of this story and the common ground that makes Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego similar to them.

**For older kids, consider asking these discussion questions:*

- What do you admire most about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
- How are Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego the same as us? How are they different?
- What are some things they did that you can do to stand for what's right?
- What are some things you may someday have to stand for or against?

What You Say:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are among the greatest of all Bible heroes. They showed conviction, courage, faith, and a huge amount of obedience. They were willing to die for what they believed. These three men were confident in their God, even if He didn't choose to save them. When we hear their amazing story, it's easy to forget that they were ordinary people just like us. They prayed to the same God that we do. They probably knew what it was like to be laughed at or made fun of. Like us, they felt scared and needed God's help to overcome their fear and to stand strong. Choosing to stand up for what God says is the wise choice. Why? Because **when you stand for what's right, others can see God.**