

# Winter Lesson 9



Bible Passage: Daniel 3  
(Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)

## God Rescues

### Remember Verse

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" Luke 4:8

**RESPOND**//15 minutes



*Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.*

### Reflect: God Rescues

Encourage the kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

#### Questions for Younger Kids

- **Why didn't Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worship the gold statue?** Daniel 3:16–18
- **Why weren't Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego afraid to go into the fiery furnace?** Daniel 3:16–18
- **How did God comfort them when they were in the fire?** Daniel 3:24–26
- **How has God rescued you?** John 3:16

#### Questions for Older Kids

- **Why didn't Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worship the gold statue?** Daniel 3:16–18
- **Why weren't Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego afraid to go into the fiery furnace?** Daniel 3:16–18
- **How did God comfort them when they were in the fire?** Daniel 3:24–26
- **How has God rescued you?** John 3:16
- **In what area of your life do you need God to rescue you?**

# Rescue Notes

Children respond by sharing where they need God to rescue them or show Himself mighty in their life.

## SUPPLIES

- bucket or fire pit (with parent supervision)
- black construction paper (or can be dark colored construction paper - and regular white paper can work, too)
- Pens (black ink if using black paper, blue ink if using a dark colored paper)

## RELATE

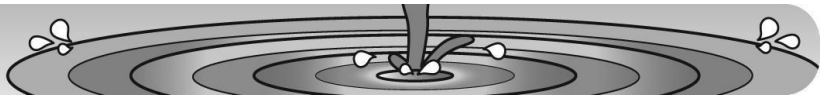
**When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fiery furnace, only the ropes that had tied their hands had been burnt! God rescued His servants from death. Because God is mighty to save, we can bring our fears, worries, or hard situations to Him in prayer. Though God does not always—or quickly—take away the hard things in our lives, He listens to our prayers and comforts us through His Holy Spirit.**

**Think about some of the things you need God to rescue you from or how you need God to be mighty in your life. Then using black ink, write on the black paper\*\* one thing you want God to rescue you from. When you're finished, bring the paper and put it in a non-flammable bucket (or fire pit or fireplace). Then, have an adult set the paper on fire.**

\*\*The idea is that no one can see what is written on the paper (except God and the child) if a black pen is used on black paper. Blue ink pens may not show up on dark colored paper. This activity can also use regular paper and any color of pen - the child can wad up the paper when finished so no one sees what was written. Adults can burn the papers as an act of a prayer.

When the kids are done, encourage them to find a quiet place in the room and pray for the things they wrote. After some time, lead in prayer, asking God to work in each of these requests.

**BLESS//** 5 minutes



***Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.***

## RELATE

Invite your group to kneel in a circle, in a posture of worship. Then open a Bible and read Psalm 91:14–15:

**“Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.”**

Finally, end with this blessing:

**May you know that God rescues and protects His children. He is always with you.**

Send home Remember Verse cards and the At Home Weekly with your kids.

# LEADER PREP

*Each week you'll find encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.*

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## **Inspire** *Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

Years ago I traveled to India on a mission trip with my youth group. One night, we held a ministry event in a rural town, and hundreds gathered for worship and prayer. In the middle of prayer, a local man came up to my friend and me, shoved us aside, and began shouting in his native tongue.

We looked down to see that he'd pushed us away from a deadly scorpion, which had quietly crept up to my friend's foot. We were hours away from the nearest hospital. God had rescued us from danger that we hadn't even been aware of.

That night, Luke 10:19 came to mind: "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." God will always give us victory over the power of Satan! We knew that we'd always remember how God rescued us from a dangerous situation. And no matter what happens in our lives, our powerful God still rescues us today.

*Rae Lynn Lott*

**ROCKHARBOR** Church

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## **Equip** *Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

God rescued His people, the Israelites, even in their disobedience and captivity. When Babylon defeated the nation of Judah and destroyed Jerusalem, the conquerors took captive Hebrew men of nobility to serve the Babylonians. "Among those who were chosen were ... Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego" (Daniel 1:6–7).

Part of the Babylonians' strategy as a world power was to assimilate any potential leaders from the next generation of Hebrews into the Babylonian culture. One way they did this was by changing all Hebrew names to Babylonian names. This was only part of the effort of the Babylonian king to turn the followers of Israel's God into loyal followers of Babylonian culture and religion.

The Babylonians tried to make these Hebrew men conform to their culture. And although, in many ways, Daniel and his friends reflected Babylonian culture on the outside—in the names they were given and the language they spoke—the similarity stopped there. They may have looked and spoken like Babylonians, but the men's hearts did not serve their gods. Daniel and his friends chose to serve only the one true God, even in the face of death.

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## **Support** *Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego spoke to Nebuchadnezzar, after they'd been threatened with death from the fiery furnace, they said, "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" (Daniel 3:17–18). These men knew that even if God doesn't choose to save us from the hard things in life, He is still worthy of our devotion.

Spend some time thinking about how God is sovereign and has absolute authority over our lives. Every day, every moment, every breath is a gift from Him. This week, spend some time thanking God for the fact that He gave you life. Spend some time marveling that He controls everything, loves you, and wants to be in relationship with you.