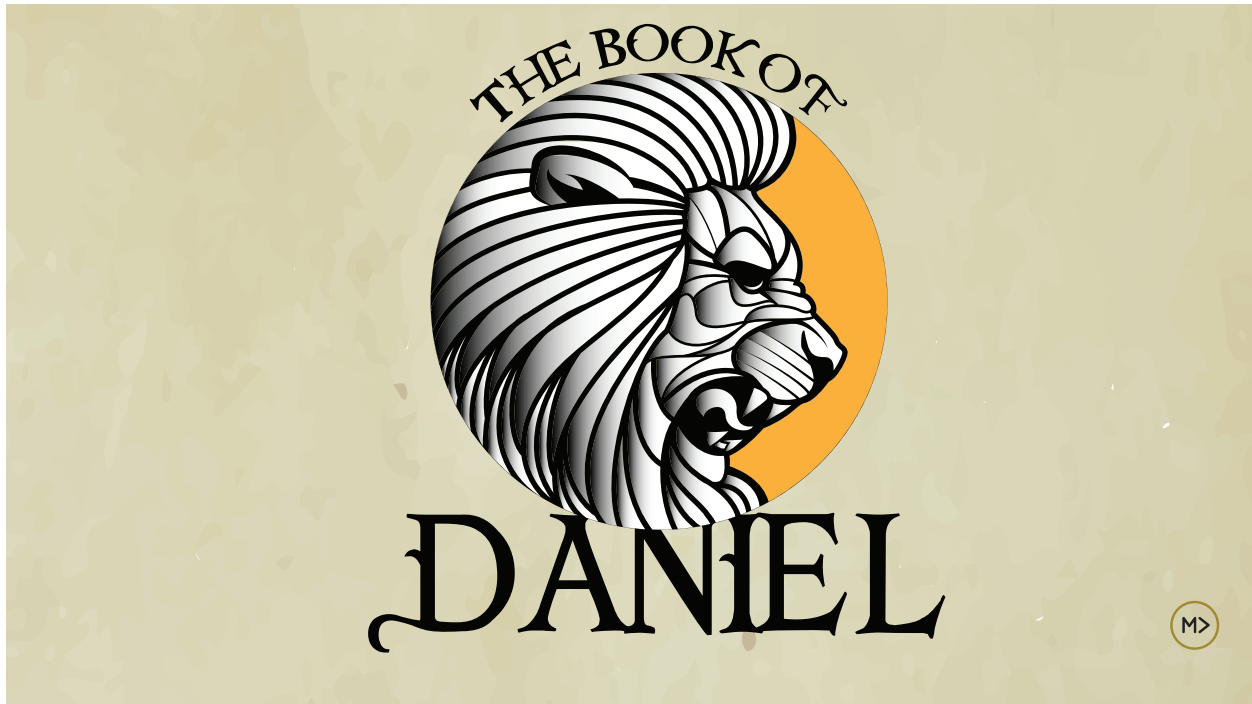


MD KIDS CURRICULUM: DANIEL



Week Three: Four Men In A Fire

To the Teacher:

The book of Daniel is primarily about how God's people can live in His kingdom in the midst of a culture trying to rule with human kingdoms. Pray that we as a church, our kids included, will learn to love our culture while remaining faithful to our true King.

- **Big Idea:** God is our Protector and with us in our trouble.
- **Question:** What is the hottest place you have ever been?
- **Starter:** 'Hot Potato'
Play a game of hot potato to get the kids warmed up and interactive. You could then tell them today's story is about three men thrown into a room so hot it caught everything on fire... and they lived!

- **Story:** from Daniel 3

Even though Daniel had shown King Nebuchadnezzar that the God of Israel was the only god who knows everything and is the only one worthy to be worshipped, Nebuchadnezzar was used to worshipping his false gods. Even worse, he was used to himself being worshipped by others as their king! And he liked it that way.

He set up a golden statue and commanded that whenever music was played everybody needed to bow down and worship Nebuchadnezzar's statue. If they didn't, the king would have them thrown into a blazing hot furnace that would burn them up!

One day the king heard that Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, refused to bow down to the golden statue. He asked them, "Is it true you are not bowing to my statue? Haven't you heard that you'll be thrown into the fire if you don't? And what kind of God is able to save you from my power and my fire?" The three friends replied, "We don't have to defend ourselves. Our God is real and He can save us from your fire. But even if he chooses not to save us, we will still only worship Him, not you or your statue."

This made the king so furious he ordered the heat to be turned up seven times hotter than normal and to tie up the three men and throw them in. It was so hot, even the guards who got close to the fire were burned up! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tied and thrown into the fire.

Suddenly, the king noticed that the three men were walking around safely inside the hot fire! Not only that, but there was a fourth person walking around with them... a man who looked like a son of God! So, the king let the men come out of the fire and, sure enough, they walked out of the fire completely safe and unharmed.

Nebuchadnezzar cried out, "Praise to the God of these three men! He sent His messenger to rescue them because they trusted Him. They went against my command and risked their lives to be faithful to their God and He saved them. Therefore, let nobody say anything bad against their God, or they will be destroyed! Because there is no other god who can save like the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego." Then he rewarded the three friends because he saw their God was real.

[Things to Point Out]

- Ask: Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar still worshipped other gods after Daniel proved his God was the only one who knew all things?
 - He lived and grew up in a culture that worshipped lots of gods - it was hard to get away from that!
 - He liked having other people worship him as king
 - Ask: Why do you think King Nebuchadnezzar was so angry when the three men didn't worship his statue?
 - He didn't like being disobeyed.
 - He thought he should be treated as the most powerful person.
 - Ask: What do you think made the three friends so brave?
 - They knew God was able to save them
 - They knew even if God did not save them, He is still the one and only true God and only He deserves to be worshipped
 - The three men trusted God and He saved them!
 - The fourth man in the fire seemed to come out of nowhere! He untied the men and kept them from burning up.
 - Nebuchadnezzar called him a 'messenger of God', and the story says he looked like 'a son of God'.
 - This could've been an angel, or even God Himself! Either way, it was God's power that came to protect them for trusting Him.
 - Ask: Is there something you are having a hard time trusting God with right now? Pray and ask for the faith that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had.
- **Prayer:**

God, help us to trust You the way these three men did. Thank You that You come to rescue Your people when we trust You. Thank You for not leaving us!
 - **Craft:**
 - Use the two attached pages to create a furnace that opens to reveal four men standing inside
 - **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

 - **Speak:** Who can you tell this week about the power of God and how He rescues? Pray to speak boldly like the men in this story did!

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