

**Profiles in Courage | 2 - Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Another in the Fire****Message Big Idea**

Let your commitment to follow Jesus give you the courage to stand up for what is right, knowing God will be with you in the challenge.

**Scripture**

Daniel 3

**Points to Keep In Mind**

1. Nebuchadnezzar was not trying to convert people to his religion; the statue was a statue of his god, so it was a way of getting everybody to worship him. It symbolized his greatness and the greatness of his empire, Babylon. He was the ruler of the most powerful empire in the world, and he wanted everyone to bow down and worship him.
2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had relatively nice lives. They worked for the king and had a lot going for them. We might imagine them trying to find a loophole—like worshiping with their fingers crossed behind their backs. We might imagine them giving in to save their lives and asking forgiveness later—after all, what good are they to anyone if they're dead? Instead, their courageous response makes the king even more furious, and he turns up the temperature before throwing them into the furnace.
3. It's important to note that they say, "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 or worship the image of gold you have set up." What does this say about their faith?
4. We may not bow down to idols, but we still put other pursuits in place of God. For many, it is working for the promotion we've wanted. Maybe you experience peer pressure at school to do things you disagree with just to fit in. Perhaps you put pressure on yourself to be the perfect parent when God wants you to be a present parent for your children.
5. The prayer in the last question is a bold prayer. Let the group wrestle with the implications of praying it, and encourage each other to pray it for the next few weeks. Check in as a group the next time you meet to see how it's gone.

**Additional Questions and Resources**

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your YOU+ journey? Check out [communitychristian.org/you](http://communitychristian.org/you)
3. Have you considered getting baptized? Learn more at [communitychristian.org/baptism](http://communitychristian.org/baptism)