

# A Simply Sizzling Stand

**The Scene:** in a city square of Babylon

**The Simple Setup:** Stack a pile of chairs, blocks or books at center stage for the idol.

**For Extra Impact:** Drape the “idol” with a gold-colored or fancy cloth.

**Bible Story**  
Shadrach, Meshach,  
and Abednego  
**Scripture**  
Daniel 3:1-27

## The Characters

**Narrator:** the storyteller

**Meshach:** a guy or girl

**Shadrach:** a guy or girl

**Abednego:** a guy or girl

**The King:** a guy or girl

**Crowd:** kids who will mime playing instruments and provide verbal sound effects for them

## The Skit

*After you've assigned the roles of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and the King, designate the rest of your children as the Crowd.*

*Narrator and the King are stage right. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are standing stage left. The Crowd sits on the floor.*

**Narrator:** It's a cool, pleasant afternoon here in the Babylon city square. You may know that this is the place where announcements are made to the people, and that's what just happened. A government official has just read a decree stating that whenever we hear a horn honking, flute tooting, zither whistling, lyre strumming, and harp plunking, we have to fall down and worship a giant golden statue set up by King Nebuchadnezzar. Anyone who doesn't bow down will be tossed into a fiery furnace. Most people seem fine with the new law, but there are three Jewish slaves who seem to be talking together.

**Meshach:** Uh-oh. We can't DO that.

**Shadrach:** What do you mean?

**Abednego:** I agree—it's out of the QUESTION. This is a NEW robe. I can't just lay down on the ground in it every time some harp player plunks!

**Meshach:** No, I mean we can't bow to that IDOL. We only worship the one TRUE God.

**Shadrach:** But what about the FIERY FURNACE?

**Abednego:** Maybe God won't mind just this once. After all, we don't want to be the only ones NOT doing it. That would be RUDE.

**Shadrach:** Maybe if we go along now, we can make it up to God LATER.

**Abednego:** Maybe we just don't have the courage. GOD will understand.

**Meshach:** Or maybe God expects us to do what is right no matter WHAT. I don't know about you two, but I'M not bowing. Besides, maybe no one will notice us.

**Shadrach and Abednego:** Yeah, right.

**narrator:** Crowd, please stand and get ready to obey the King's command. Listen—we can hear a horn honk. *(Pause.)* And a zither whistle. *(Pause.)* And a lyre strummed. *(Pause.)* And a harp plunked. *(Pause.)* You know what that means—EVERYONE BOW! Look, everyone is bowing, except for those three Jewish slaves. And now the music has faded away and the rest of the crowd is STANDING, and the three Jewish slaves are starting to walk away. That's when someone in the crowd yelled, "Wait! Wait! Not everyone bowed!"

**Crowd:** WAIT, WAIT! Not everyone bowed!

**Abednego:** Oh, oh... THIS can't be good.

**narrator:** Everyone was pointing at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

**Crowd:** THEY didn't bow!

**Shadrach:** I'm thinking we're going to be hearing back about this from SOMEONE.

**narrator:** When the news reached the King, he was FURIOUS.

**King:** I am FURIOUS! Not just a LITTLE furious, either! I am VEINS-IN-MY-FOREHEAD-BULGING, EYES-POPPING FURIOUS! Bring those lawbreakers here at ONCE!

**narrator:** The King had the three Jewish slaves hauled in front of him. The three men stood in a line, Shadrach to the left, Meshach in the middle, and Abednego on the right. No, maybe it was SHADRACH in the middle... no, that's not it. Maybe Meshach was on the left and Abednego was...

**King:** GET ON WITH IT!

**narrator:** Anyway, they were LINED UP.

**King:** Now, is it TRUE that you refused to bow?

**narrator:** The three Jewish slaves nodded their heads "yes."

**King:** Did you hear the MUSIC playing?

**narrator:** The three Jewish slaves nodded their heads "yes."

**King:** Now, listen CAREFULLY. We'll play the music again. If you DON'T bow, it's fiery FURNACE time for you three!

**narrator:** The three slaves stepped back to talk about it.

**Abednego:** Oh, GREAT. NOW what?

**Shadrach:** Maybe we should just bow. That fiery furnace looks awfully...HOT!

**Meshach:** We can't give up NOW. We need to TRUST God for whatever happens.

**Abednego:** You're right—it's time we took a STAND. You in, Shadrach?

**Shadrach:** Count me in. I'm trusting God!

**narrator:** The three stepped back in line. Meshach spoke for them.

**Meshach:** If we are thrown into the furnace, our God can save us. But even if he DOESN'T, we will NOT worship your god.



Start the "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego" track on *The Humongous Book of Bible Skills for Children's Ministry CD* (track 21). Set your CD player on "repeat" so the track repeats.

**narrator:** The King was so ANGRY he cranked up the fiery furnace to SEVEN TIMES its usual heat. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were THROWN into the furnace!

**King:** THIS will teach you a lesson!

**narrator:** After the three men were in the furnace awhile, the King peered in to see what was happening. He couldn't believe his eyes.

**King:** Hey, didn't we throw THREE guys in there? How come I see FOUR walking around? And why are they walking around instead of being BURNED up?

**narrator:** The King ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be taken out of the fiery furnace. When the door was opened, they walked out, looking just like they looked when they went in. The crowd was AMAZED.

**Crowd:** Unbelievable!

**narrator:** The King walked over to the three slaves and SNIFFED them.

**King:** This can't be right. You don't even smell like SMOKE and your clothes aren't burned. How is this POSSIBLE?

**narrator:** The King scratched his chin. He looked at the furnace, then looked at the three men. Then he looked at the furnace again. Then he began to understand. A big smile lit up his face.

**King:** Praise be to the God of Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego, who sent his angel to rescue them. These men trusted their God and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any OTHER god.

**narrator:** The King slapped the three men on the back, and together they PRAISED GOD.

**King, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego:** PRAISE GOD!

**narrator:** And the crowd all cheered.

**Crowd:** Woo-hoo!



## To Talk About

◆ **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were strangers in Babylon. Have you ever had to try to fit in to a new place? How did God help you?**

◆ **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego showed courage by their actions. When have you shown courage? What happened?**

◆ **God spared Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. If God hadn't, would that mean God loved them less? Why or why not?**

**Topical Tie-Ins:** Fitting In, Standing Up for God, Courage