

[HOMEPAGE]

For families of junior soldiers

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:

You Have
A Right To
Say "No"

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

"In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven."

The memory verse for the week is included on each HOMEPAGE. Help your child review it during the week. The portion of the memory verse printed in *italics* is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.

PARENT POINT:

Discuss with your child the many idols in the world today. Talk about ways to focus on God and not worldly things.



TODAY MARKED

the conclusion of the unit, "Making Good Choices." For the final lesson of this unit we jumped back in the book of Daniel to chapter three. Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had been living in Babylon for 20 years. King Nebuchadnezzar was in the 18th year of his reign.

The king erected an image of gold on the plain of Dura. He summoned all his political leaders to come, bow down, and worship the idol whenever the music played. The punishment for not bowing down to the idol was to be thrown in the fiery furnace.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to the idol because it was against their faith in God. The other leaders in Babylon told the king that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't bow down to the idol or worship the idol. The king was furious and he ordered the three Hebrews to appear before him.

The king asked the young men to defend themselves. They said, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we don't need to talk about this anymore. We might be thrown at once into a blazing furnace. But the God we serve is able to bring us out of it alive. He will save us from your powerful hand. But we want you to know this. Even if we knew that our God wouldn't save us, we still wouldn't serve your gods. We wouldn't worship the gold statue you set up" (Daniel 3:16-18 NIV).

This angered the king more. He ordered the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. The king's soldiers tied the three Hebrews up and placed them in the fiery furnace.

The king noticed that there were four men walking unbound in the furnace. He called for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to come from the furnace. The king and his servants were amazed that not a hair on their heads was singed. He proclaimed that no one should speak against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson helped junior soldiers strengthen their identities as Christians and stand firm for their beliefs. They understand that it's okay to say "no" to things they know aren't God's will.