



THOU ART EXALTED

brave

THE FIGHT AGAINST TOUGH STAINS IS OVER!

"BE STRONG AND BRAVE." 2 SAMUEL 2:7

Discover how God wants you to be BRAVE in a world that wants you to fit in!

5
FIVE

LESSON ONE

FACING THE FURNACE

“Oh, the joys of those who TRUST in the LORD, who have no confidence in the proud, or in those who worship idols.”
Psalm 40:4 (NLT)

“I WILL BE WITH YOU when you pass through the waters, . . . they will not overwhelm you. You will not be scorched when you walk through the fire, and the flame will not burn you.”
Isaiah 43:2-3 (HSCB)

STAIN of the DAY... Have you ever **IDOLIZED** something or someone?

DO YOU KNOW THE DEFINITION OF:

IDOLATRY?

idolatry |idol·a·try|

- extreme admiration, love or reverence for something or someone
- the worship of a physical object as a god

Definition corner!

Today we will meet three very BRAVE men in the Bible. You may have heard about them before: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Their example of BRAVERY could be the HIT movie of the year! Picture this—As the fire gets hotter, so does King Nebuchadnezzar’s temper. Yet, three men stand firm in their faith and stare into the face of death itself. Will they submit to this mighty king’s command to worship an IDOL? Or, will they hold on to the roots of their faith in God Almighty and, in the process, risk their very lives? Grab your popcorn, and let’s take a look at Daniel 3:16-28. (Your leader will read Daniel 3:1-15 to set the stage.)

1. What would be your title for this “movie”?
2. Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego choose to BOW DOWN to this enormous gold statue or STAND FIRM and believe in God, who said,

“Do not make idols of any kind . . . You must never worship or bow down to them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not share your affection with any other god!” Exodus 20:4-5

3. What are some things we “bow” down to in our culture? Why would God be jealous of our affection for the things of this world?
4. What do you think made their FAITH so STRONG? (vs. 17, 18)
5. Did God rescue them from having to go through this difficult circumstance? Why not?
6. Are you going through a tough situation right now? Who are you TRUSTing to help you through it?

STAIN REMOVAL TIPS!

• Great Job! Did you know that BRAVERY begins with the choice to TRUST? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose to TRUST in God and BELIEVE He would save them—even if it meant walking into a FIERY FURNACE.

• Here are THREE things we can LEARN from their BRAVERY.

1. Be ready for battle. We need to have STRONG convictions about our faith BEFORE we “face the furnace” of difficult circumstances. Shad, Mendy, and Bendy did not BOW DOWN to this idol but STOOD FIRM and TRUSTED that God had a plan . . . a good one.

2. Have STRONG friends who will walk with us in life and share the same TRUST we have in God.

3. God sometimes allows us to go through the “fire” of hard situations. But, God is TRUSTWORTHY! He promises us that He is ALWAYS with us and will NEVER take us through a situation that we cannot handle (Psalm 73:23, 1 Corinthians 10:13).

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the LORD. ‘They are plans for GOOD and not for disaster, to give you a future and a HOPE.’” Jeremiah 29:11 (New Living Translation)

ANTISEPTIC CLEANING AGENT of the DAY... TRUST

• FIRM belief in the reliability, TRUTH, ability or strength of someone or something/ NOTE: Relationships have to be built on TRUST

DID YOU Know?...

DID you know that GOLD has to be put into the fire numerous times to get rid of all the stains? They even wash gold with DETERGENT to get it clean! God allows us to go through the “FIRE” to get rid of our impurities, too. God washes away our STAINS and CLEANSSES us into the people He created us to be!

RINSE CYCLE

“TRUST in the Lord with ALL your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

Lord, please teach me to be READY when life gets HOT. Surround me with GOOD friends who care about me and love YOU! I pray that You would place a desire in me to KNOW Your Word and be PREPARED when the next challenge arises. Convict me when I place something in my life before You. I pray not to “bow down” to the things of this world but to STAND UP, be BRAVE, and TRUST in You!

Pray brave

"NOW THEN, BE STRONG
AND BRAVE!..."
2 Samuel 2:7

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