

The Lord is My Helper

Focus

God can help us to be strong and faithful to Him when others around us are making bad choices.

Today's Tip

Share with students a time when you were afraid and how God was with you.

Supplies Needed:

- Pastel construction paper
- Pencils/Colored markers
- Gold or silver glitter



Welcome and Singing

- Welcome guests & take attendance.
- Make announcements.
- Sing songs relating to story topic.
- Take prayer requests and pray.



Opening Activity

Ask students, "How many of you have ever been afraid?" All hands should go up. "Many times in the Bible God tells us **not** to be afraid. Today we are going to have a sword drill using Verses about fear. I will divide you into two teams." Divide the class into two teams of about equal ability.

Give out one Bible reference. The first person to find it may stand up and read it aloud. The team this person is on will get the first point. You may take a moment to discuss the verse, then give out the second reference and repeat the procedure until all ten verses have been read and discussed. The team with the most points is the winner.

Scripture references are:

Joshua 1:9

Psalms 34:4

Psalms 56:3

Hebrews 13:6

Isaiah 43:1

Isaiah 41:10

2 Timothy 1:7

1 John 4:18

Psalms 23:4

Matthew 6:31

Matthew 6:33



Intro to the Story

Our lesson today is about three young men who weren't afraid because they trusted in God. This story is taken from the book of Daniel in the Old Testament. The king of Babylon whose name was Nebuchadnezzar, had taken the people of Israel captive (or slaves) to Babylon. One of them was a young man named Daniel. Daniel had three good friends who were also taken captive. Their names were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Because Daniel had pleased the king by telling him the meaning of his dream, the king had given Daniel a high position over all of Babylon, and over all Babylon's wise men. Daniel's three friends were also given positions of leadership.



The Story/The Passage

King Nebuchadnezzar made a huge image of gold which was ninety feet high and nine feet wide. Many of the king's leaders and officials came for the dedication of the huge golden image. As they stood before the image, they were told that when they heard the sound of many musical instruments playing, they must fall down and worship the golden image. Whoever refused to fall down in worship would immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace. Soon the music played, and the men from every nation that Nebuchadnezzar ruled fell down and worshipped the image. That is, all **except** the three young Israelite men.

At this time, a certain group of men who hated the Israelites or Jews came to King Nebuchadnezzar and told him about the Israelites who had not bowed down to the image. The king was furious and demanded that they be brought before him. The king asked if it was true that they had refused to bow down to the image. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego told the king: "O king, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it dear to you that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

So, the furious king commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. Then, the three Israelites were securely tied and the king's soldiers threw them in. The fire was so hot that the soldiers who threw them into the fire were killed.

Suddenly, King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and asked his advisors, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace? Look, I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed. And the fourth looks like a god!" Then, he shouted to the men, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" And they did.

Then, the king's high officials and their advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!

Then, the king praised the great God of the three brave men, who had sent an angel and rescued them! He also praised the three men for being willing to give up their lives in order to be faithful to their own God. King Nebuchadnezzar was convinced that the Lord is God, and He can do anything!



Discussion Questions

After the story has been read, take time to talk about it as a class.

1. Ask, "Did the three men **know** they would be saved from death when they refused to bow down to the image?" **No, they didn't know if they would live or die.**
2. Ask, "How do you think they found the courage to disobey the king?" **Their courage came from a strong faith in God. They knew it was important to be faithful to Him. They were not afraid of the people – even the king. They knew it was more important to obey the true God rather than an earthly king, even if it meant they could lose their lives.**



Prayer

Thank God for the courage of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who were faithful to God even if it meant death. Thank God for the miracle He performed in saving their lives, and in changing the king's heart. Ask God to help us be faithful to Him when situations arise and we must make a choice as to who we will serve. Thank God that He is always faithful to us.



Memory Verse

So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" - Hebrews 13:6

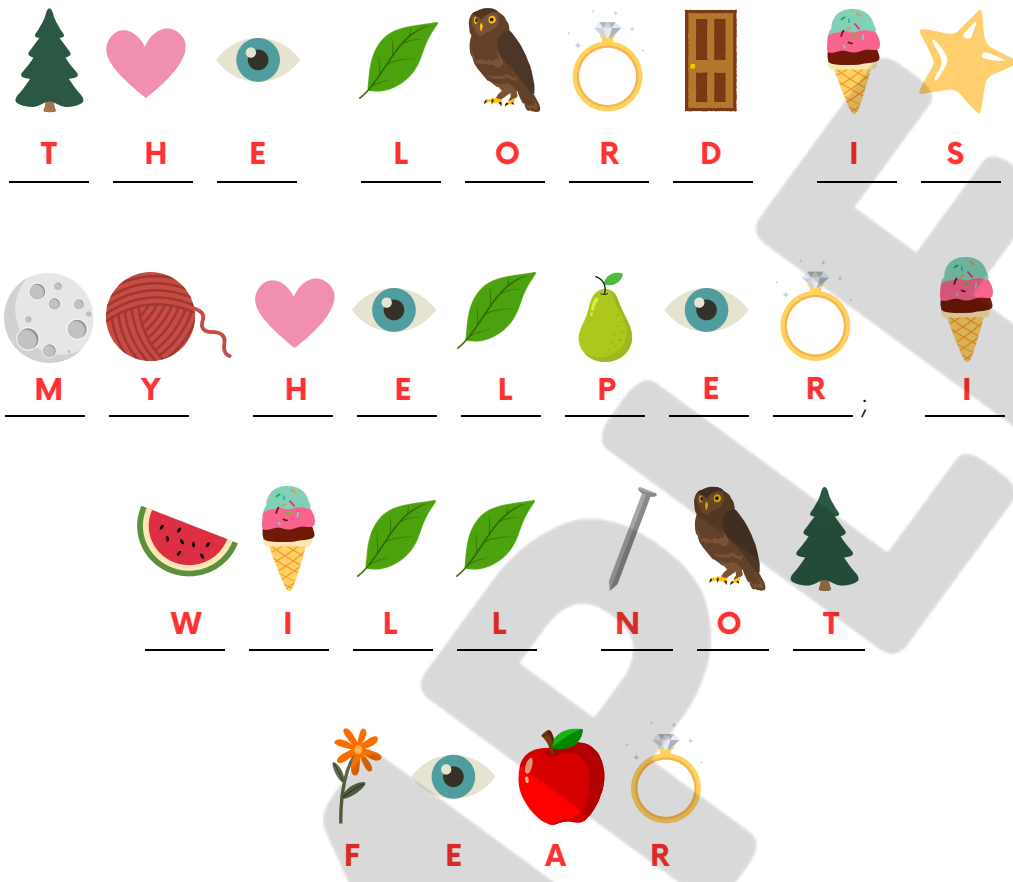


Lesson Activity

The verse printed on the next page tells us something important about God, but the middle part of the verse is missing. Write the first letter of each picture on the line below the picture to find the missing words.

So we can confidently say, " The Lord is my helper ;
 I will not fear . What can man do to me?"

- Hebrews 13:6



Craft - The Lord is My Helper

Instead of a craft today, we will each draw a picture of the fiery furnace with the three young men inside, plus the angel or maybe it was Jesus. You can also draw the bodies of those who threw the men into the furnace and died because of the intense heat. It would be a good idea to draw the picture in pencil, then finish it with colored markers.

Students may use glitter for the heavenly visitor in the furnace. At either the top or the bottom of the picture write in bold letters, **"THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT FEAR."** Students should write their names on the back of the papers. You may want to hang the pictures in the class room for several weeks.