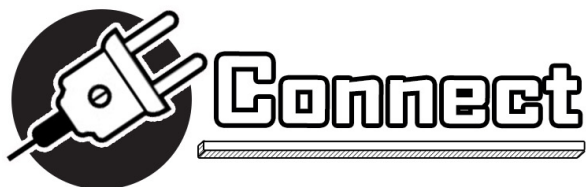




Daniel's Friends (Daniel 3)



Let's play a game called "Bow to Stand".

Materials Needed:

Pillows

Stuffed toys (If stuffed toys aren't accessible to you, you may use plastic or paper cups . . . have the cup laid on its side then your goal would be to make it stand.)

This activity can be done either on the bed or on the floor. Parents and kids can play together.

Instructions:

Both parents and child will have to kneel on a pillow side by side each other.

Set up a stuffed toy that is faced down on the bed/floor for each player.

The challenge is to make the stuffed toy stand using only your face. Since you are both kneeling, the movement will be to take a bow towards the stuffed toy and use your face muscles to make it stand up without biting it.

The one who can make his stuffed toy stand is the winner.

(If kneeling is too difficult, you can modify by bringing the game to a table.)

That was a fun challenge! The hardest part of the game was the kneeling part because it's painful for the back and legs. Did you know that bowing is a big deal for kings? In ancient times, if a person does not bow to the king, they can be punished.



Read The Word

This was what happened in our story of the 3 friends in Daniel 3:

12 But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.”

13 Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king,

15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

(The 3 friends reply to the king)

17 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.

When given the choice by the king, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had no second thoughts about which to choose. For them, it was only to obey God. When they were told of their punishment, they were not afraid. In fact, their faith in God was so strong that even if God will not save them, they will not bow to the king’s idol.

How did the 3 men have such devotion to God in their hearts? You see, they have been following and seeking God all their lives. Ever since they were brought to Babylon as captives, they have had to make choices whether they would follow God or not. Remember back in Daniel 1, when they had to make a choice about the kind of food they will eat? They chose to follow God and up to this time, when the king demanded them to bow down to his idol, they refused and still chose to follow God. Did they know if God will save them? No, but it did not matter to them because what was important for them was to obey God.

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, 27 and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

When the king saw how God saved them, even he could not help but praise God!



Parent to Kid/s:

2-6 years old

- When you do not know what to do, who do you go to for help?

7-12 years old

- Do you find it easy or difficult to follow God? Share with us an instance when you had to make a choice.

Kid/s to Parent:

- Have you ever had to make a choice between following God and following others? What did you do?

Standing up for your faith is not always an easy thing. But as you seek God, the more you will know Him and the more you can trust Him. When faced with tough decisions, choosing to follow God will not be difficult at all.



Dear God,

Thank You for the story of these 3 young men. We pray that You help us remember that You are always greater than our fears and problems and You will always rescue us. In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen!



Do you have an idea how hot the fiery furnace where the 3 friends were put in would have been?

History suggests that King Nebuchadnezzar would have likely used a brick kiln as bricks were used extensively at that time. Temperatures for brick kilns could go as high as 1300°C. To give you an idea of how hot that is:

- Temperature for boiling water is 100°C
- Temperature to roast a chicken is 175°C
- Temperature to bake a cake is 180°C
- Temperature to bake bread is about 250°C
- Temperature to melt gold is 1064°C

Source: http://creationwiki.org/Fiery_furnace

