



WEEK 3

C3KIDS ACTIVITY GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives extraordinary courage.

THE BIBLE

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: Daniel 3;
(Psalm 46:1-2)

ACTIVITIES TO REINFORCE THE LESSON

Welcome to week three of our series, Crossover. This month we are meeting four ordinary people who God used to do extraordinary things! We have taken the activities for this week's lesson and listed them here. You can find all the print outs, sing-along songs, and resources for this week at the C3KidsWheeling.com website.

ACTIVITY | Hot Statue

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This is a spin-off of the game, Hot Potato. The kids will sit in a circle and as the music plays, they will pass a golden object (a random bowling trophy, a dollar store Barbie spray-painted gold, anything works as long as it's gold and statue-like). Play the music and pause it at random. When the music stops, whoever is holding the golden object is out. Play until there are three players left. For very small groups, you can play until there is just one player left.*
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have your preteens stand in a circle really close together, and pass the "statue" as usual. After the first person gets out, have everyone take one step outward, so that they are farther apart from one another. Then play again, and after the next kid gets out, have the remaining kids take another step backwards. Repeat throwing the "statue" around until the desired number of kids remain in the game.*
- Okay, everyone knows the game Hot Potato, right? Well, today we're going to play Hot Statue. When the music starts, you pass it around in a circle. When it stops, if you're holding it, you're out! The last three people are going to be our winners today because we're going to hear a story about three special people.



CROSSOVER I WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON

- Great job! You resisted the gold statue! Today's Bible story is about a golden statue that someone made. There were three men who did not want anything to do with this statue.

ACTIVITY I Through the Furnace

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Create a "furnace" for kids to go through using either a giant appliance box or a six-foot table with a large tablecloth draped over (it should be big enough to crawl through safely one at a time). Use a yellow, red, and orange tablecloth and/or crepe paper and strong, clear tape.*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *If you have kids whose movement is impaired by a physical disability, consider hanging red, orange, and yellow streamers from a yardstick, then having two leaders hold each end in the air while the kids walk or wheel through it. Or, if movement in this way isn't an option for your kids, you can wave the yardstick with streamers attached over their heads. Depending on the number of leaders you have, you could have multiple yardsticks with streamers to create several sections of "flames" for the kids to pass through.*
- Today, we are going to pretend like we are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, three people in the Bible who were forced into a fiery furnace. As you crawl through, think about how scary that must have been if this had been real fire instead of pieces of paper!

OBJECT LESSON I The Dark

- **Are you afraid of the dark?** Lots of us are. Maybe you prefer to sleep with a night-light? I know I do. Maybe you are okay to sleep in the dark in your own room, but what about if you are sleeping someplace new? Sometimes, we may need courage when we least expect it.
- **Have you ever been camping?** That is when I am most afraid of the dark. New places and new sounds can be scary. But two things give me courage when camping: praying to ask God to help me be courageous and my flashlight. So, we're going to do a little experiment. We're going to turn the lights off in here just for a few seconds, okay?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Turn the lights off in the room (if your room has large windows, try to draw the blinds or otherwise make it darker for this experiment). After a few seconds, turn on a flashlight to alleviate the darkness.*
- Those flashlights really helped, didn't they? Well, guess what? Asking God for courage is like turning on a flashlight in a dark room. At first, it might not seem like it helped. You might still be scared or nervous. But praying to God gives you the ability to calm down and see what you need in order to keep moving.

ACTIVITY I Courage Beads

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Start with one container each of orange, red, and yellow pony beads or buttons, plus a mason jar or clear, plastic container with a lid. The kids will choose one or more colored beads/buttons that represent a place where they feel like they need extraordinary courage in their lives and as they place their bead in the container, they'll pray and ask God to give them the courage they need to get through it.*



CROSSOVER I WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON

- **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *If you have kids with fine motor challenges, consider using larger red, orange, and yellow objects like [ball pit balls](#), pieces of construction paper, pieces of pool noodle cut into discs, etc. that the kids can then place in bowls rather than jars.*
- Everyone needs a little help being brave. And honestly, some of us need a lot of help with it. I want all of us to think of an area in our lives where we need some extra courage. Maybe you need some extra courage at school because you have to do a big presentation or because there's someone in your class who makes you feel nervous. Maybe you need some extra courage at home because you just moved to a new house and your new room is kind of scary at night. Maybe you need some extra courage at church because you're scared about being in the choir and singing in front of everyone.
- When you're ready, take a colored bead that represents the place you need courage the most: red beads are for courage at home, yellow beads are for courage at church, and orange beads are for courage at school. As you hold your bead in your hand, pray and ask God to help give you the same kind of courage that helped Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stand up for what was right. Then, place your bead in the jar.

ACTIVITY I Furnace Lights

- We're going to do a craft that can become a nightlight for your room. This craft will remind us God is always with us and that God gives us extraordinary courage even when we're going through hard times. Cut out your little people, and then put them, the flames, and the tea light in your jar and put the label on top.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid the following: a plastic jar, a battery-operated tea light, a little heap of yellow and orange tissue paper torn into small pieces, clear tape, black construction paper pre-folded into quarters with a person drawn on it, scissors, and Avery one-inch round labels with "Daniel 3" written or printed on them. The kids will assemble the components. Start with tissue paper pieces, secured with tape. Cut the black construction paper figures out and place them in the jar. Place the tea light in the middle of the jar. Put the label on the lid. (Your finished product might look similar to [this](#).)*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *If you have kids with fine motor challenges, consider having the figures cut out in advance and using larger plastic jars to make it easier for the kids to reach inside the jars and decorate.*

ACTIVITY I Stand Together

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into small groups. Tell the small groups to sit on the ground in a circle with their backs facing each other and then tell them to link arms. Their goal is to get to their feet without using their hands to push off the ground. Whichever group stands first wins a small prize.*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *If you have kids whose movement is impaired by a physical disability, consider playing a different game like [Hedbandz](#) that will allow you to convey the overall point of needing each other without excluding anyone who is unable to get up and down off of the floor or otherwise participate physically.*



CROSSOVER I WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON

- Okay, now everyone's in position with arms linked, right? You'll need to work together to stand up together as a team, and the first team to stand wins! Are you ready? Set? Go!
- The reason this story is so great is God gave extraordinary courage to not just one person, but all three people. It would've been so easy for one of them to give up and decide to bow to the statue. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had each other to rely on as well as God. This small group is like that, too. We rely on God to give us courage, but we also have each other, too.

ACTIVITY | Unharmed

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid two paper plates, a metal brad, and a copy of the printables. Cut one of the paper plates in half. Glue the flames to each half of the cut paper plate. Have them draw a silhouette on the second plate, then glue Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to the paper plate. Using the hole punch, punch a hole in the bottom of the two paper plates and secure with the metal brad. The paper plate with the flames should open to reveal the men inside. (The completed activity might look something like [this!](#))
- **These men were asked to do something that they knew was not okay. They were just ordinary guys, but they knew what God wanted of them, and because God gave them extraordinary courage, they were able to walk into and right back out of that fiery furnace with no harm. God changed their abilities from ordinary to extraordinary because they trusted God. Wow!**

STORY | The Bravest Thing I've Ever Done

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a story of a time when you were extra brave and then ask the kids for examples of times they had to be super brave.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Have one or two of your older kids share their stories of time when they need to be brave, such as fixing a broken arm, walking home at night, getting on an airplane for the first time, and the like.
- Today's Bible story is about three men who became extraordinary and brave when faced with huge danger.

THE BIG IDEA | God gives extraordinary courage.

- Our ordinary, old box is becoming more and more extraordinary, isn't it? We've got the big ideas from last week and the week before on here, and today, we'll add another one. **Who would like to come pull the yellow paper out of here today?**
- **And what does that say?** "God gives us extraordinary courage."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Add the yellow Big Idea paper to the outside of the box with glue or tape.

DISCUSSION

- **What did King Nebuchadnezzar build and what did he want the people to do with it?**
- **Why were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into the fiery furnace?**



CROSSOVER I WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON

- How did King Nebuchadnezzar know that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego actually worshipped the one, true God?
- Re-read Daniel 3:26-28. What was the outcome of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refusing to worship a statue?
- Have you ever experienced a time when you were told to do something that wasn't the same as what God wanted you to do?
- If you were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do you think you would've been able to stand firm and not bow down to the statue?
- How do we know God will give us courage when we need it?

MEMORY VERSE | Cup Stacking

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split the kids into groups of three to four. Give each group ten to twelve red, orange, or yellow Solo cups (or something similar). Split the memory verse up and write parts of the verse on each cup for each group (adults should do this with a Sharpie). The groups will compete to stack their cups as tall as they can, with the memory verse in order, without it falling over.*
- For this game, you are going to work together with your group to stack your memory verse cups in order without your tower falling over. The three to four people in your group will represent Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (and the angel if a group has four) and your tower will represent the golden statue the king made.

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Introduce kids to this month's memory verse, teaching them the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.*

RIVER KIDS ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY | Hot Statue

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This is a spin-off of the game, Hot Potato. The kids will stand in a circle and as the music plays, pass a golden object (such as a bowling trophy, a dollar store Barbie spray painted gold, anything works as long as it's gold and statue-like). Play music and then pause it at random. When the music stops, whoever is holding the golden object is out and must sit down. Play until there are three players left. For very small groups, you can play until there is just one player left.*
 - **TODDLER HACK:** *Pass a yellow ball or beach ball instead of a statue.*
- Today, we're going to play a game called, Hot Statue. When the music starts, you will pass this statue around in a circle. When the music stops, if you're holding it, you're out and must sit down! The last three people are going to be our winners today because we're going to hear a story about three special people. (Play the game.)
- Great job! You resisted the gold statue! Today's Bible story is about a golden statue someone made. There were three men who did not want anything to do with this statue.



ACTIVITY I Through the Furnace

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a "furnace" for the kids to go through using a play tunnel. Tape yellow, red, and orange crepe paper around each end of the tunnel. You can also use a hula hoop with yellow, red, and orange crepe paper around it and hold it while the kids climb through it.
- Today, we are going to pretend like we are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, three people in our Bible story who were forced into a fiery furnace. A furnace is like a big, hot oven! As you crawl through, think about how scary it would have been if this was real fire instead of pieces of paper!

ACTIVITY I Courage Cuffs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to use craft supplies to decorate a cardboard tube before having a leader cut it lengthwise so it can be placed on the kid's arm. Then, encourage the kids to wear their cuff bracelets as a reminder they can have extraordinary courage.
 - **TODDLER HACK:** Write "God gives us extraordinary courage." on index cards. Punch a hole in the top right and top left of the card. Thread a 2-ft length of yarn through the holes so the children can wear them around their necks. Allow the children to decorate the cards with the stickers.
- Everyone needs a little help being brave. You are going to make courage cuff bracelets that you can wear to remind you that you can have extraordinary courage, just like the three men in today's Bible story.

SNACK I Furnace Treats

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** At the bottom of a cup, place a small Teddy Graham or a gummy bear. Then, cover it with red or orange treats (such as candy corn, gummies, M&Ms, goldfish crackers, carrots sticks). Then, give each kid three teddy bear treats to represent today's characters. When they get to the bottom, they're going to find the fourth person who was in the furnace!
- **Who did not worship the king's statue in today's Bible story?**
- **How did this make the king feel?**
- **How many men did the king throw into the furnace?**
- **How many men did the king see walking around in the furnace?**

ACTIVITY I Into the Furnace

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to sit in a circle. Choose one kid to be the "it." "It" will go around the circle, gently tapping each kid's head. Then, "it" will choose one child to be the "chaser." The "chaser" will chase "it" around the circle. If he/she catches "it," "it" will have to sit in the furnace (the center of the circle). Continue to play until four kids are in the center of the circle (the furnace). Then, replay the game as time and interest allows.
- **What did King Nebuchadnezzar build and what did he want the people to do with it?**
- **Why were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into the fiery furnace?**



CROSSOVER I WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON

- What happened to the men when they came out of the furnace?

ACTIVITY | Stand Together

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into groups of three. Tell the groups to stand together in a circle as you lead this activity. Tell each kid in each group to say, "God gives us extraordinary courage!" and high-five the person next to them. Continue until each kid in the group has had a turn.*
 - **TODDLER HACK:** *Provide a variety of objects for children to group in 3's, such as cotton balls, pom poms, craft sticks, crayons, Little People figures, cups, etc. Say, "Today's story was about three friends! Can you find three ___?"*
- **Have you ever been afraid of something?**
- **Have you ever done something, even though it was scary?**
- **Do you think God gave you the courage to do that scary thing?**
- One of the reasons today's Bible story is so great is God gave extraordinary courage to not just one person, but all three people. It would've been so easy for one of them to give up and decide to bow to the statue. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had each other to rely on as well as God. We rely on God to give us courage, but we also have each other, too.

ACTIVITY | Cup Stacking

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into groups and give each group ten to twelve red, orange, or yellow Solo cups (or something similar). Before the kids arrive, split the memory verse up and write parts of the verse on each cup for each group. Help the kids stack the cups while putting the memory verse in order without it falling over.*

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a coloring page along with crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Remind them of today's story, memory verse, and Big Idea as they color!*

ACTIVITY | Not Afraid!

- Are you afraid of the dark? Lots of us are. Maybe you prefer to sleep with a night-light? I know I do. But two things give me courage when I'm in the dark: praying to ask God for courage and my flashlight! So, let's practice being full of courage together. We're going to turn the lights off in here just for a few seconds, okay?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Turn the lights off in the room and huddle together in the middle of the room. Prepare a flashlight and ask one kid to volunteer to take the flashlight to the light switch and turn the lights back on. When they get there, tell them to yell, "God gives me extraordinary courage!" Repeat until everyone who wants to try has had a turn.*

ACTIVITY | Dress Up Center

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set out a variety of superhero costumes or capes for the kids to wear. Encourage the kids to pretend to be superheroes.*



CROSSOVER I WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON

- Superheroes need a lot of courage to go out and save the world! Let's pretend to be superheroes and ask God to give us courage!

PRAYER

- Dear God, help us to have extraordinary courage, just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Help us to remember You are with us all the time.