

Tell Me A Story

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

BIBLE STORY

Daniel 3:1-30

In today's lesson, children will hear the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. When King Nebuchadnezzar reigned, he made a huge idol of gold to be worshiped in his kingdom. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up to the king and told him they would not worship a false god. Because of this, King Nebuchadnezzar had them thrown into a hot, fiery furnace. To the king's amazement, they walked around inside the furnace without being burned or harmed at all. They were protected by the Almighty God. In the end, the king praised and worshiped God, because he knew God protected His followers.

KEY CONCEPT:
Believing in the One True God means standing up for Him.

BIBLE VERSE

"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."

Ephesians 6:10

OBJECTIVES

KNOW WHAT: (LG) Children will hear the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and how they stood up for God by not worshipping idols even if it



meant they might die in a furnace.

SO WHAT: (LG) Children will learn believing in the One True God means standing up for

Him.

NOW WHAT: (SG) Children will be challenged to think of ways they can stand up for God in their lives.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Commitment/Courage

PEOPLE NEEDED

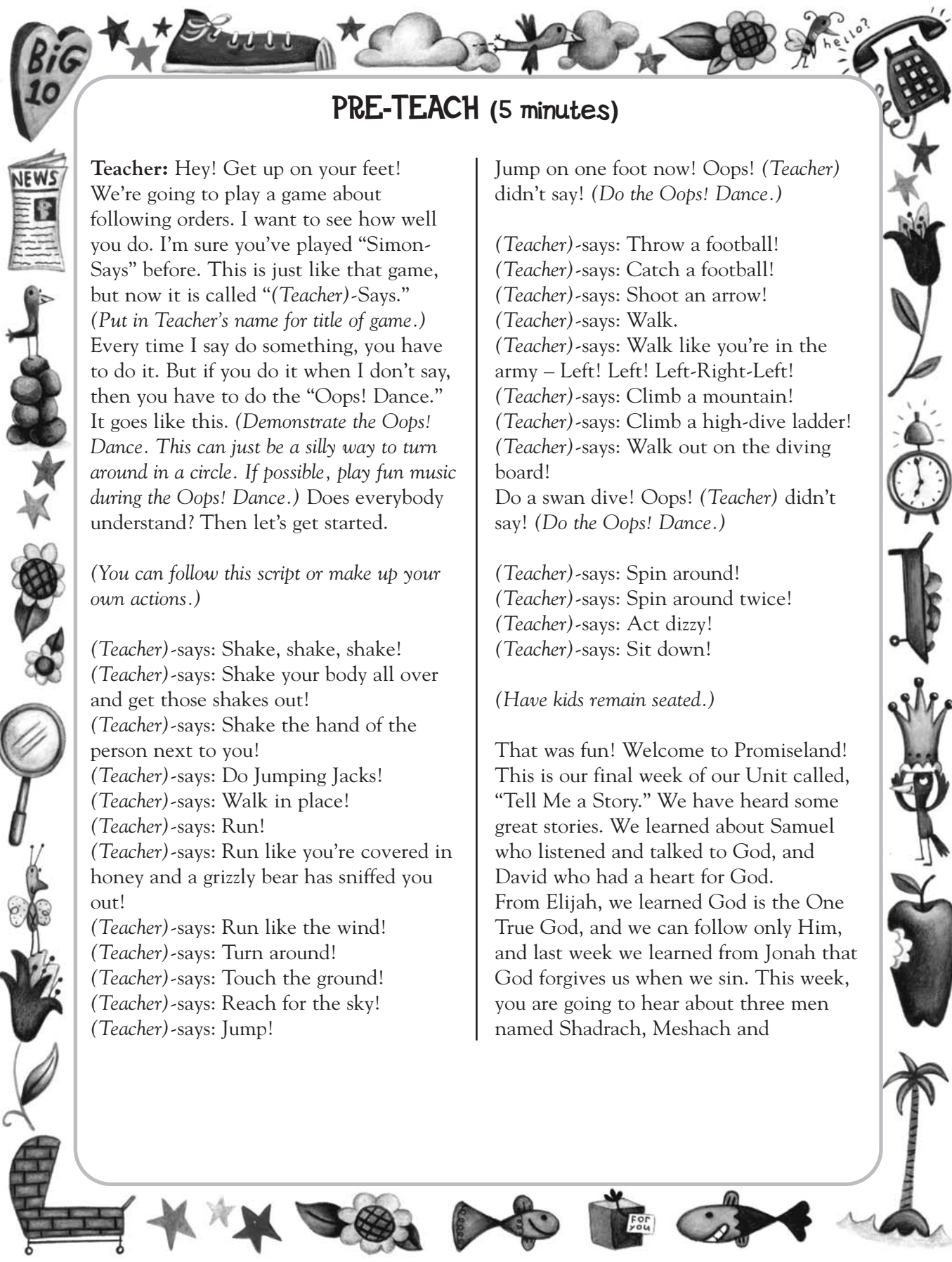
Teacher

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- TV/VCR
- *Making It Connect* video
- Situation Cards
- Bible Verse prop
- CD player
- *Journey in the Wilderness* CD

IN ADVANCE

- Photocopy Situation Cards and cut apart (page 119).
- Cue up video to Lesson 13 – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
- Prepare Bible Verse prop.
- Prepare music.



PRE-TEACH (5 minutes)

Teacher: Hey! Get up on your feet! We're going to play a game about following orders. I want to see how well you do. I'm sure you've played "Simon-Says" before. This is just like that game, but now it is called "*(Teacher)-Says*." *(Put in Teacher's name for title of game.)* Every time I say do something, you have to do it. But if you do it when I don't say, then you have to do the "Oops! Dance." It goes like this. *(Demonstrate the Oops! Dance. This can just be a silly way to turn around in a circle. If possible, play fun music during the Oops! Dance.)* Does everybody understand? Then let's get started.

(You can follow this script or make up your own actions.)

- (Teacher)-says:* Shake, shake, shake!
- (Teacher)-says:* Shake your body all over and get those shakes out!
- (Teacher)-says:* Shake the hand of the person next to you!
- (Teacher)-says:* Do Jumping Jacks!
- (Teacher)-says:* Walk in place!
- (Teacher)-says:* Run!
- (Teacher)-says:* Run like you're covered in honey and a grizzly bear has sniffed you out!
- (Teacher)-says:* Run like the wind!
- (Teacher)-says:* Turn around!
- (Teacher)-says:* Touch the ground!
- (Teacher)-says:* Reach for the sky!
- (Teacher)-says:* Jump!

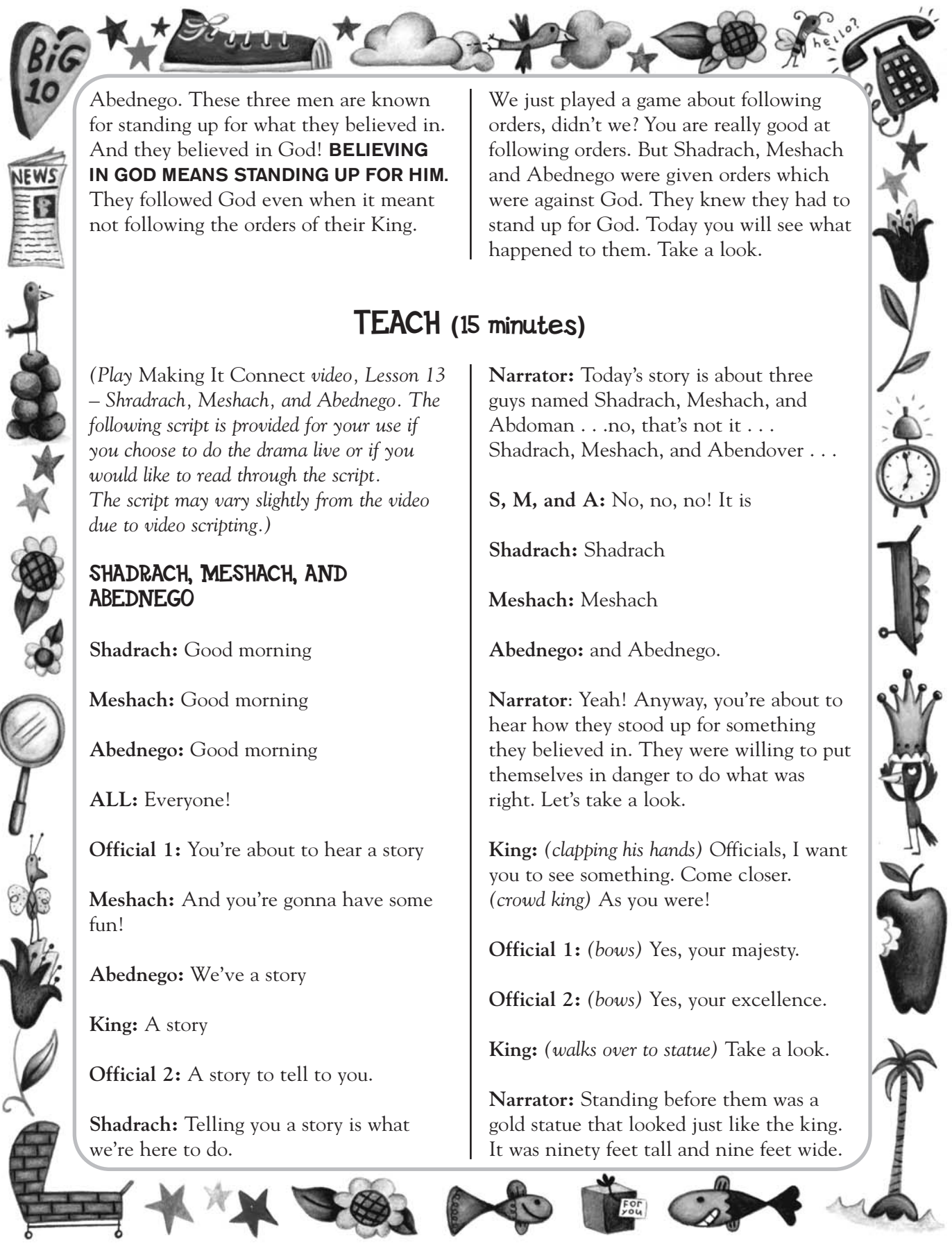
Jump on one foot now! Oops! *(Teacher)* didn't say! *(Do the Oops! Dance.)*

- (Teacher)-says:* Throw a football!
- (Teacher)-says:* Catch a football!
- (Teacher)-says:* Shoot an arrow!
- (Teacher)-says:* Walk.
- (Teacher)-says:* Walk like you're in the army – Left! Left! Left-Right-Left!
- (Teacher)-says:* Climb a mountain!
- (Teacher)-says:* Climb a high-dive ladder!
- (Teacher)-says:* Walk out on the diving board!
- Do a swan dive! Oops! *(Teacher)* didn't say! *(Do the Oops! Dance.)*

- (Teacher)-says:* Spin around!
- (Teacher)-says:* Spin around twice!
- (Teacher)-says:* Act dizzy!
- (Teacher)-says:* Sit down!

(Have kids remain seated.)

That was fun! Welcome to Promiseland! This is our final week of our Unit called, "Tell Me a Story." We have heard some great stories. We learned about Samuel who listened and talked to God, and David who had a heart for God. From Elijah, we learned God is the One True God, and we can follow only Him, and last week we learned from Jonah that God forgives us when we sin. This week, you are going to hear about three men named Shadrach, Meshach and



Abednego. These three men are known for standing up for what they believed in. And they believed in God! **BELIEVING IN GOD MEANS STANDING UP FOR HIM.** They followed God even when it meant not following the orders of their King.

We just played a game about following orders, didn't we? You are really good at following orders. But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were given orders which were against God. They knew they had to stand up for God. Today you will see what happened to them. Take a look.

TEACH (15 minutes)

(Play Making It Connect video, Lesson 13 – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The following script is provided for your use if you choose to do the drama live or if you would like to read through the script. The script may vary slightly from the video due to video scripting.)

SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO

Shadrach: Good morning

Meshach: Good morning

Abednego: Good morning

ALL: Everyone!

Official 1: You're about to hear a story

Meshach: And you're gonna have some fun!

Abednego: We've a story

King: A story

Official 2: A story to tell to you.

Shadrach: Telling you a story is what we're here to do.

Narrator: Today's story is about three guys named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abdoman . . .no, that's not it . . . Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendover . . .

S, M, and A: No, no, no! It is

Shadrach: Shadrach

Meshach: Meshach

Abednego: and Abednego.

Narrator: Yeah! Anyway, you're about to hear how they stood up for something they believed in. They were willing to put themselves in danger to do what was right. Let's take a look.

King: (*clapping his hands*) Officials, I want you to see something. Come closer. (*crowd king*) As you were!

Official 1: (*bows*) Yes, your majesty.

Official 2: (*bows*) Yes, your excellence.

King: (*walks over to statue*) Take a look.

Narrator: Standing before them was a gold statue that looked just like the king. It was ninety feet tall and nine feet wide.



(Both officials look up and their mouths are hanging wide open in amazement.)

King: Isn't it beautiful? Isn't it grand? Isn't it sooooo me?

Official 2: It's beautiful and grand!

Official 1: It's soooooo you!

Narrator: The king gathered his officials and all his kingdom for a dedication ceremony.

King: Thank you for being here today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the "little" people. (*points to the officials*) That would be you, and you, and you, and . . .

Narrator: (*frustrated*) Can we just get on with it? (*King gives narrator a nasty look*) . . .uh . . .your . . .a . . .royalness . . .sir.

King: As I was saying, I would like to thank everyone who helped me get where I am today. In my own honor, I dedicate this gold statue to myself. Thank you. (*hugs self*) I love me! I just love, love, love, me!

Narrator: Once the ceremony was over, the King commanded everyone to fall down and worship his statue when they heard the music play.

King: Whoever does not bow down and worship my statue when they hear the music will be thrown into the blazing furnace.

(*We hear "gulps" from Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.*)

King: Let the music begin!

(*Music will begin playing as we see each of the officials bow one at a time. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego remain standing. They are off to the side having the following conversation.*)

Shadrach: Who does this guy think he is?

Meshach: If he thinks I'm bowing down to that statue, he's crazy.

Abednego: I dunno guys. He could turn us into toast if we don't do what he says.

Shadrach: Doesn't he know our God is the One True God?

Meshach: Obviously, he doesn't.

Abednego: I'm worried. (*Looking up*) God, we could sure use Your help.

(*We see the king walking around taking in all the people who are bowing down to his statue. He is very proud of himself.*)

Narrator: Just then, one of the officials called out to the king.

Official 2: Hey, king! You see those three guys over there?

King: Yes.

Official 2: Well, they aren't bowing down to your statue.

King: No, they aren't.

Official 2: It looks like they are choosing to disobey your command.



King: Yes, it does.

Narrator: Well, this didn't make the king very happy.

King: You know, this doesn't make me very happy.

Narrator: The king ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abigbagel . . .

Abednego: That's Abednego.

(Officials push the three over to the throne forcing them to fall down before the King.)

King: Yeah, we know. Be brought before me! Is it true that the three of you do not serve my gods or worship my beautiful golden image?

Shadrach: Yes, it's true.

Meshach: Although you are the king and we want to obey you, we won't bow down and worship your idol.

Abednego: We will only worship our God who is the one true God.

King: Perhaps you didn't understand. I'm ordering you to bow down to my statue. Now, let's try it again. Official number one, demonstrate please.

(Official mimes the actions the King is speaking.)

King: *(Says it very slowly)* When—you—hear—the—music, I want—you—to—bow—down—and—worship—my—statue. Musicians, music, please!

(Music plays as King Nebuchadnezzar watches the three to see if they will obey. During this section, the officials will go off stage and change into soldier uniforms.)

Narrator: But, when the music played, those three guys just stood there. They did not bow down and worship the statue.

King: Okay, listen. I'm only gonna say this once more. If you don't obey my command and fall down and worship my statue, I'll have you thrown into the blazing furnace. Will your God be able to save you then? Will He?

Shadrach: O Nebuchadnezzar, we don't need to defend ourselves to you.

Meshach: If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, our God will save us, O King.

Abednego: But even if He doesn't, we want you to know that we will never serve your gods or worship your gold statue.

Narrator: The king couldn't believe it. He was furious!

King: I AM FURIOUS!

Narrator: The king called his soldiers and ordered them to throw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abbyroad into the blazing furnace.

King: Soldiers, I want you to turn the furnace up seven times hotter than usual. Then, I want these three tied up and thrown into the fire.

Narrator: So, the king's soldiers did what they were told and threw them into the



blazing furnace. The fire was so hot, that the soldiers were killed by the heat. And, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abumblebee fell into the fire.

Abednego: That's Abednegooooooooooooooooo!

(The two soldiers go off and the two officials return.)

King: *(looking over to furnace)* Officials, did I not order three men to be tied up and thrown into the furnace?

Officials: Yes, your kingness.

King: Unless my eyes are deceiving me, I see four men walking around inside the furnace.

Official 2: When was the last time you had your eyes checked?

Official 1: He's right! There are four men inside.

Official 2: And none of them are even hurt!

Narrator: King Nebuchadnezzar approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted,

King: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out!

Narrator: So,

Shadrach: Shadrach

Meshach: Meshach

Abednego: and Abednego

Narrator: came out of the fire. King Nebuchadnezzar and his officials gathered around the three men.

(We see the officials and the king touching Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.)

Narrator: They could not believe that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not burned. They didn't even smell like smoke.

King: Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued them. They trusted their God and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god but their own.

(Actors gather at front of stage.)

Shadrach: At that very moment, King Nebuchadnezzar told the people

Meshach: that if any of them said or did anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,

Abednego: they would suffer great pain and their houses would be turned into piles of rubble.

King: Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into high positions in his kingdom.

Shadrach: We hope you liked this story

Meshach: and learned a thing or two



Abednego: we certainly had a real good time

(Lights fade as actors exit.)

King: telling it to you.

(Turn off video.)

POST-TEACH (10 minutes)

Teacher: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew what was right. They believed in God and they stood up for Him even when everybody else was bowing down to King Nebuchadnezer's idol. They stood up for God even when it meant putting themselves in danger! Believing in God means standing up for Him!

One day he told me he was going to cram all my church talk right down my throat with his fist! Do you think I was scared? You bet I was!

(Insert a personal story here. It should be about standing up for God even when it might cost you something. Or, you can read the following story, told by a boy named Dave.)

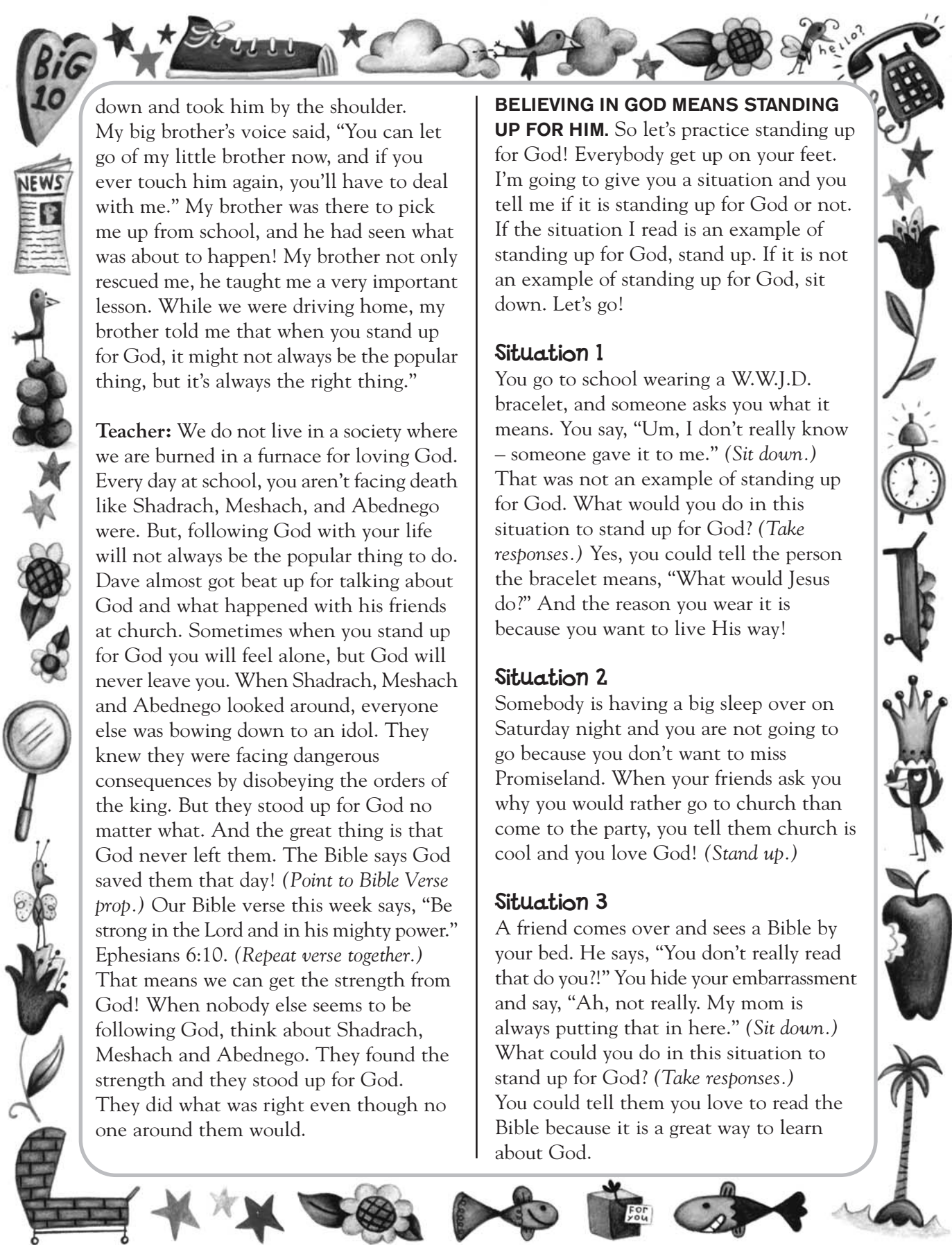
After school that day Jason had his friends posted at every exit of the school so they could get me the minute I walked out the door. When I came out Jason grabbed me by the bike rack. He pulled the strings of my hooded sweatshirt and started choking me with them! He pulled them so tight I eventually passed out and fell straight to the ground! When I finally woke up Jason and his friends were gone. I was so scared. Jason didn't want to hear me talk about church, but I knew God was awesome, and I needed to stand up for Him. That night I went home and told my older brother about what had happened. My older brother is eleven years older than I am. After I told him what happened, he said, "Whatever you do, don't ever stop talking about what you believe in just because someone else doesn't like it."

Now, I want to tell you what happened to a boy named Dave. Here is his story.

"When I was just a little older than you are, I had some really good friends at my church. We loved spending time together. We loved playing video games, building model cars, having sleepovers, and just hanging out. I was happy to be with my friends. I also loved going to church! I could see my friends, hang out with them, and learn about God!

The next day I found out Jason and his friends were still planning to beat me up after school. He felt he hadn't had the chance to really pound me because I had passed out right away. When I left school, Jason and his friends cornered me at the bike rack again. As Jason was about to throw the first punch, a big hand reached

When I went back to school on Monday mornings I couldn't wait to tell everyone about the awesome time I had at church. But not everyone liked my stories about God and church. In fact, there was a boy in my class named Jason who didn't like my stories or the fact that I went to church! Jason was the biggest kid in the class.



down and took him by the shoulder. My big brother's voice said, "You can let go of my little brother now, and if you ever touch him again, you'll have to deal with me." My brother was there to pick me up from school, and he had seen what was about to happen! My brother not only rescued me, he taught me a very important lesson. While we were driving home, my brother told me that when you stand up for God, it might not always be the popular thing, but it's always the right thing."

Teacher: We do not live in a society where we are burned in a furnace for loving God. Every day at school, you aren't facing death like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were. But, following God with your life will not always be the popular thing to do. Dave almost got beat up for talking about God and what happened with his friends at church. Sometimes when you stand up for God you will feel alone, but God will never leave you. When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego looked around, everyone else was bowing down to an idol. They knew they were facing dangerous consequences by disobeying the orders of the king. But they stood up for God no matter what. And the great thing is that God never left them. The Bible says God saved them that day! (*Point to Bible Verse prop.*) Our Bible verse this week says, "Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." Ephesians 6:10. (*Repeat verse together.*) That means we can get the strength from God! When nobody else seems to be following God, think about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They found the strength and they stood up for God. They did what was right even though no one around them would.

BELIEVING IN GOD MEANS STANDING UP FOR HIM. So let's practice standing up for God! Everybody get up on your feet. I'm going to give you a situation and you tell me if it is standing up for God or not. If the situation I read is an example of standing up for God, stand up. If it is not an example of standing up for God, sit down. Let's go!

Situation 1

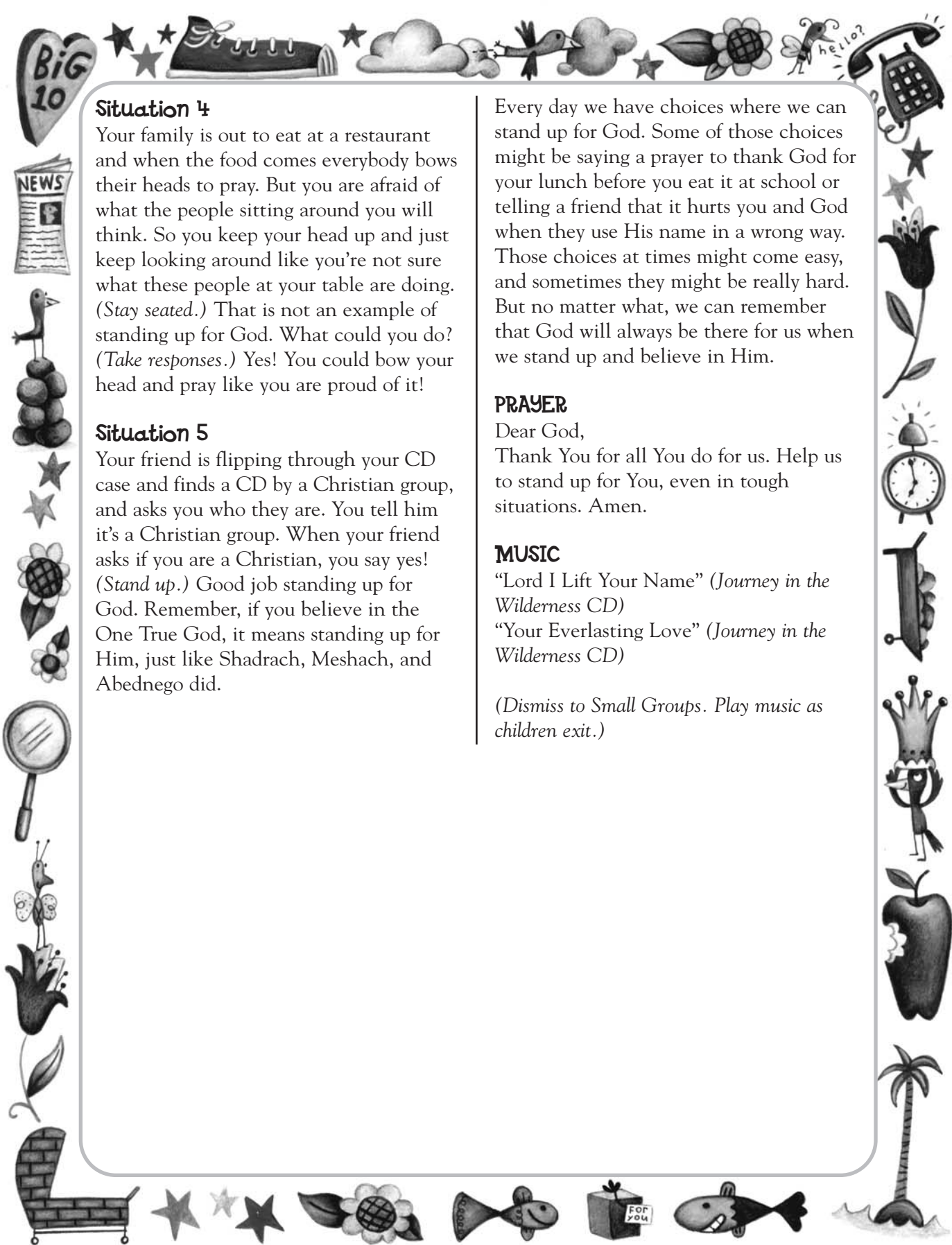
You go to school wearing a W.W.J.D. bracelet, and someone asks you what it means. You say, "Um, I don't really know – someone gave it to me." (*Sit down.*) That was not an example of standing up for God. What would you do in this situation to stand up for God? (*Take responses.*) Yes, you could tell the person the bracelet means, "What would Jesus do?" And the reason you wear it is because you want to live His way!

Situation 2

Somebody is having a big sleep over on Saturday night and you are not going to go because you don't want to miss Promiseland. When your friends ask you why you would rather go to church than come to the party, you tell them church is cool and you love God! (*Stand up.*)

Situation 3

A friend comes over and sees a Bible by your bed. He says, "You don't really read that do you?!" You hide your embarrassment and say, "Ah, not really. My mom is always putting that in here." (*Sit down.*) What could you do in this situation to stand up for God? (*Take responses.*) You could tell them you love to read the Bible because it is a great way to learn about God.



Situation 4

Your family is out to eat at a restaurant and when the food comes everybody bows their heads to pray. But you are afraid of what the people sitting around you will think. So you keep your head up and just keep looking around like you're not sure what these people at your table are doing. (*Stay seated.*) That is not an example of standing up for God. What could you do? (*Take responses.*) Yes! You could bow your head and pray like you are proud of it!

Situation 5

Your friend is flipping through your CD case and finds a CD by a Christian group, and asks you who they are. You tell him it's a Christian group. When your friend asks if you are a Christian, you say yes! (*Stand up.*) Good job standing up for God. Remember, if you believe in the One True God, it means standing up for Him, just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did.

Every day we have choices where we can stand up for God. Some of those choices might be saying a prayer to thank God for your lunch before you eat it at school or telling a friend that it hurts you and God when they use His name in a wrong way. Those choices at times might come easy, and sometimes they might be really hard. But no matter what, we can remember that God will always be there for us when we stand up and believe in Him.

PRAYER

Dear God,
Thank You for all You do for us. Help us to stand up for You, even in tough situations. Amen.

MUSIC

“Lord I Lift Your Name” (*Journey in the Wilderness CD*)
“Your Everlasting Love” (*Journey in the Wilderness CD*)

(Dismiss to Small Groups. Play music as children exit.)