

# The Fiery Furnace

By

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Theme:

This play conveys the fact that through prayer we can stand against any temptation that is put our way, no matter how large or difficult to overcome.

Biblical Reference:

Daniel 3:1-30

Approximate Running Time:

10-15 minutes

Props:

Orchestra Music.

A fiery furnace - this is optional if you can make a portable set that the people can see through to know it's a furnace and there is fire. You may also create a device to cast red shadows on the back wall of the four in the fire.

## Cast of Characters:

Shadrach: A young godly man who isn't afraid to stand for his faith.  
He is dressed in traditional Old Testament costuming.

Meshach: A young godly man who isn't afraid to stand for his faith.  
He is dressed in traditional Old Testament costuming.

Abednego: A young godly man who isn't afraid to stand for his faith.  
He is dressed in traditional Old Testament costuming.

## King

Nebuchadnezzar: A cruel, strong fisted ruler of Babylon. He is dressed  
in Traditional Old Testament costuming that reflect his  
royalty.

Advisor 1: An advisor to King Nebuchadnezzar. Can be of either sex.  
Should be dressed in traditional Old Testament costuming that  
portray he or she is a bad guy.

Advisor 2: An advisor to King Nebuchadnezzar. Can be of either sex.  
Should be dressed in traditional Old Testament costuming that  
portray he or she is a bad guy.

Scene: The advisors are meeting with the King at Stage Left as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are kneeling together in prayer at Stage Right. The two areas can be separated with a set or just implied.

Shadrach: Oh dear God, our father and creator, we come before you today with thanksgiving in our hearts for the way you have protected us from our enemies and blessed us in this land.

Meshach: Lord God, we thank you for the way you have protected our brother Daniel and set him up as a leader in this foreign land and allowed us to be appointed in leadership positions beneath him.

Abednego: Thank you Father for the continued blessing you place on our lives as we live here in this palace. For the influence we have for your Holy Name and the opportunities you have given us to show that your mercies are everlasting and your blessings are beyond measure.

Shadrach: You, oh Lord God, alone are worthy of praise.

Meshach: You are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the creator of the entire universe.

Abednego: And yet you love us. Thank you Father for your majesty and authority and dominion over all things.

Shadrach: You are an awesome God and we give you thanks for all things.

Meshach: Be with our brother Daniel as he makes decisions that affect us all.

Abednego: And be with our king, Nebuchadnezzar as we try to open his eyes to your blessing over this land so that he will acknowledge you and lead his people in your ways, oh Lord.

Shadrach: We give you thanks for all things.

Meshach: Amen.

Abednego: [*Rising.*] It is so good to be able to go to the Lord in prayer every morning and every evening.

Shadrach: I agree. I can't imagine a time when we don't begin and end each day by thanking our God for his blessings and presenting our requests before Him.

Meshach: I agree too. So, what's up today?

Abednego: I don't know. It'll be the same old stuff, just a different day. There will be big decisions to make, people to see, places to go, and peasants who have problems they want us to solve. The usual. I don't worry about it until we get to work every morning. It's no big deal, really.

Shadrach: Abednego's right. It really is no big deal. I know that we have a lot of important work to do and that there are thousands of people depending on us to do it right and all, but compared to what the Lord has done for us it really isn't that big of a deal at all.

Meshach: Still, it's just about time to go and we have to go to work if we want to get paid so we can pay our bills. Those camel payments come up and bite you quicker than you expect.

Abednego: Your camel comes up and bites you quicker than you expect too. I don't like your camel. He's a mean one. I'd trade him in for a new one if I were you.

Meshach: I like Ishmael. He's a good camel. He runs on water and grass, he never breaks down, and he has a built in alarm system. Besides, he only bites funny looking people.

Shadrach: That means you're the only one who has something to worry about.

Abednego: Very funny. I thought you said that it was time to go.

Shadrach: It is getting late. Come on, let's go.

*[They exit. King Nebuchadnezzar enters. His two advisors then enter.]*

King: Ah, it's about time you arrived.

Advisor 1: Good morning great king Nebuchadnezzar.

Advisor 2: What do you have planned for us today? The usual?

King: No. In fact, I'm so excited to tell you about my plan for today. I'm tired of people ignoring me. I'm their king. I'm tired of people thinking that I'm just an average King. I'm one of the greatest kings this kingdom has ever had. I'm tired of forgetting how to spell my name. They should know how to spell it backwards and forwards. So, to help them give me the respect I deserve I've ordered a group of my peasants to create a great golden statue of me and put my name in big golden letters at the bottom of it, so that everyone can learn how to spell my name. By the way, you do know how to spell my name don't you?

Advisor 1: Of course, oh great king.

Advisor 2: How could we forget?

King: Spell it for me.

Advisor 1: What did you say?

King: I said, spell it for me.

Advisor 2: Oh great and mighty king, that would take too much time and we have so many other things to do today, what with this being your big statue unveiling day and all.

King: Spell it.

Advisor 1: Well, I, um, I can, uh, actually, I'm not sure how to spell it exactly.

King: You said you could spell it. So spell it.

Advisor 1: [*Very hesitant and stumbling over letters.*] N-e-b-b-y-nebby- k- neby-ka nezzar - n-e-z-z-a-r.

King: Nope. How about you?

Advisor 2: Oh, I thought that was right. Let's see, uh, it's nebu - uh, neba, or uh, nebo, no, it's a nebu, so it would be n-e-b-u- and then it's kaynezzer- so that would be, uh, k-n-e-z-z-e-r. Right?

King: You see. You are my two most trusted advisors and neither of you can even spell my name. It's n-e-b-u-c-h-a-d-n-e-z-z-a-r. Nebuchadnezzar. Is that so hard?

Advisor 1: Maybe for those in your kingdom who came from Poland or Germany, but for those of us who were born here it is hard.

King: That is why I am setting up this great statue with my name clearly printed on the bottom of it. Nobody should ever forget how great a king I am or should ever struggle with how to spell my name ever again.

Advisor 2: That is a great idea.

King: Oh, and there is one other little thing.

Advisor 1: Are you going to give out free chocolate bunny rabbits?

King: NO.

Advisor 2: Are you going to sing a silly song?

King: NO.

Advisor 1: Will there a carnival with fireworks and balloons and face painting?

King: NO.

Advisor 2: Are you going to get a bunch of those inflatable things the kids can jump up and down in?

King: NO.

Advisor 1: Oh, we got one of those for my second child's fifth birthday party and it was a great hit. Sir, you should reconsider getting some of those. I'm sure the people in your kingdom would have a great time playing with them.

King: There will be no chocolate bunnies, no silly songs, no carnival, no fireworks, no balloons, no face painting, no inflatable thingies, nothing like that at all. I shall unveil my great new statue and I will command all peoples, in all nations, and every man of every tribe and language to fall down and worship my image when they hear my orchestra play my new fantastic song.

Advisor 1: Wow, that's heavy.

Advisor 2: How did you come up with that?

King: I thought of it myself.

Advisor 1: You thought of that yourself?

King: Yes, I thought of it myself. Does that surprise you?

Advisor 2: No, it's not that we're surprised; it's just that you've never thought of something this great before.

King: I shall stand near the head of the great statue and watch all people bow before me as they pay me tribute and learn how to spell my name.

Advisor 1: That's great. I mean, that's more than great - it's awesome. This is the greatest, most awesome idea you've ever had.

Advisor 2: Are you sure you won't reconsider the inflatables? I think they're a really great idea.

King: NO.

Advisor 2: I hate to rain on your parade, but what happens if people don't want to bow down and worship your new statute when your orchestra starts to play your new song?

King: If they do not bow down and worship me or learn how to correctly spell my name they shall immediately be thrown into the fiery furnace.

Advisor 1: Wow, that would probably kill them.

King: Duh, that's the point.

Advisor 1: Don't you think that's a bit heavy?

Advisor 2: Aren't you going to give a warning?

King: Yes, I think it's heavy and no, I won't give a warning. These people have to learn that it's about time they give me the respect I'm due. I've waited long enough and I'm not going to wait any longer. I am their king. If they don't do what I tell them to do they are going to pay with their lives.

*[Music is heard playing.]*

King: It sounds like the orchestra is warming up. It's time to get to the statue.

*[Nebuchadnezzar and his two advisors exit. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are now part of the audience. Nebuchadnezzar and his two advisors enter and address the audience as if they have gathered to worship the statue.]*

Advisor 1: Hear ye, hear ye, all who have gathered together today by order of King Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. The king has ordered that all look upon the great statue that has been made of his likeness and when the orchestra begins to play his great song that you bow down before his likeness and worship him.

Advisor 2: You should also take note of the correct spelling of his name, which is located at the bottom of the statue, and learn how to spell his name correctly. If you do not bow before him and worship him or learn to spell his name correctly you will be thrown into the fiery furnace.

King: Begin to play my new song.

*[Music begins.]*

King: Bow and worship your king.

*[Nebuchadnezzar is enjoying the music and the worship. He is looking out over the crowd along with his two advisors at his side.]*

King: This is great, isn't it?

Advisor 1: Look, there are three over there who aren't bowing and worshipping you.

King: Where?

Advisor 2: Over there. *[Pointing at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.]*

King: Bring them to me.

*[The two advisors go to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and bring them to king Nebuchadnezzar.]*

King: What are your names?

Shadrach: We are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; we are your servants over the province of Babylon.

King: Ah, you are Daniel's friends, are you not?

Meshach: Yes, we are.

King: Then why is it that you do not bow and down and worship me when I command you to? I have put you into positions of power and authority and you spite me by not bowing.

Abednego: We are Jews and we serve and worship only one god - the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.

King: Ha, you serve a god you cannot see and you will die in the fiery furnace when you could bow down and worship me, a god you can see and you will live. This is your last chance to bow and worship me.

Shadrach: We don't have to defend ourselves against you in this matter. We know what our God has demanded of us - we are to bow down before no gods but the Lord God Almighty. If we are thrown into the fiery furnace the God we serve is able to save us from it and he will rescue us.

Meshach: But even if he doesn't save us, we want you to know that we will not serve your gods or worship any image you have set up before us.

King: You arrogant fools. You dare to spite me like this. [To Advisor 1.] Turn the furnace up to 7 times its normal temperature. I want these three to pay for their disobedience.

*[Advisor 1 exits. If you are somehow showing the furnace it should be turned on now.]*

King: *[To Advisor 2.]* Take them and throw them into the furnace.

Advisor 2: Come on, let's go.

*[They are thrown into the furnace offstage. The King and his two advisors stand and watch as they are thrown into the furnace.]*

King: This ought to be good. Are they burning in there? I can't quite tell, but it looks to me like they're not burning. What's that? It looks like there are 4 in the fire. How many did you throw in?

Advisor 2: I only threw in the fire.

King: Look, there are four in there and the fourth looks like the Son of God.

Advisor 1: How can this be?

King: There's only one way to find out. Get them out of there and bring them to me.



[Advisor 2 exits and brings them back to the King.]

Advisor 2: Look at them. There isn't a sign of fire on them. Their hair isn't burnt, their robes aren't burnt, and you can't even smell fire on them.

Shadrach: I told you that our God would deliver us.

King: 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. Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be cut into pieces and their houses will be burned into piles of rubble for no god can save anyone the way their God can.


Shadrach: Thank you Lord God for your protection on us.

Meshach: And for revealing yourself to King Nebuchadnezzar.

Abednego: And to all the people who ever hear of this story.

All: Amen.

- CURTAIN -



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