

DOING WHAT'S RIGHT

Bring it on.

MONDAY

Groovy, it's

TUESDAY

Be ...

trustworthy

So, here's the story ...

King Nebuchadnezzar made a large golden idol. He had everyone come to a dedication ceremony for the statue. The king made a commandment that when the music started playing, everyone was to fall down and worship the idol. Anyone who refused would be burned up in a fiery furnace. Soon, the music started and most all the people that had gathered from everywhere fell down and worshipped the image. But there were three Jews, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who refused. The king was furious. He said, "This time you better bow and worship the image I made. If you don't, you will be burned alive in the furnace. Who is your God that He would rescue you from my hands?" They said, "Our God is able to deliver us, but even if he doesn't, let it be known that we will never bow down to your idol." In his anger, the king ordered the furnace to be made much hotter. The three Jews were tied up and thrown into the fire. The furnace had been made so hot that the king's men who were closest to the furnace were burned up. The king was astonished when he looked into the fire to find the three were walking around in there just fine. They weren't even tied up anymore. Not only that, a mysterious fourth man like the Son of God was in there with them. All the people looked at the men in the fire. They could see that their clothes and hair and everything about them was completely unharmed by the heat and flames. Nebuchadnezzar made a new decree that anyone who speaks badly of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's God would be cut into pieces because He really is God.

Read the story for yourself in Daniel 3:1-30

Take it to God

When you pray this week, take some extra time to pray for your friends and family. They may not seem like they need it, but people often go through difficulties or have worries they never talk about to anyone. Thank God for your loved ones.

Halfway there

WEDNESDAY

A.M.

You wanna be ...

orderly

correct; fixed;
all together; precise;
in good shape

or

unruly

rebellious; riotous;
uncontrollable; violent;
wayward; quarrelsome



'If you will obey My voice and keep My covenant (agreement), then you shall be My own special possession and treasure from among all peoples [of the world], for all the earth is Mine;'

Exodus 19:5

Throw your hands up

THURSDAY

A.M.

Make a difference ...

Step up:

If all your friends were planning to do something you knew was not right, would you keep your mouth shut and just go along? Or would you step up and say something — or even walk away and not be part of it — even if no one else backed you up? It takes bravery to follow the will of God. Have courage.

Take it up a notch:

Would you volunteer your point of view, even if it wasn't a popular one? Would you become an advocate for a cause God would want you to be involved in (that some people don't like)? Stepping out and being okay with others not liking you is not easy, but sometimes it's necessary. Will you be able to stick to God's way, even when it's difficult to do?

Noon

Noon

P.M.

P.M.

Poll your friends ...

Have you ever seen a miracle?

Yes

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No

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A lot of miraculous things happened to God's children on earth. Read about one of them here:

Daniel 3:19-30

Eve

Eve

FRIDAY

Finals

King's blaze fails to roast God's three followers



WEEKEND

Woot Hoo!

A.M.

Sat.

This week's story is one of the all-time Sunday School favorites. I mean, how cool is it that God shows up in such a mind-blowing and drastic way to come to the rescue of some of His beloved children? These guys are dedicated to fighting the good fight and honoring Him, and He comes through in a huge way. There is no writing that situation off as normal; it was a straight-up miracle any way you look at it. I especially love how they responded to the king. "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." (Daniel 3:17-18) They were making it abundantly clear that the king was not going to have his way no matter what he threatened to do (or actually did) to them. They knew without a doubt that God was capable of saving them. They also were very aware that He might not do it in a way they expected. Or, at all — it was in His hands only, and was completely up to Him how He wanted things to work out. That death sentence from the king, by all normal standards, should have been their untimely end — and God might have chosen to allow it. Turns out God did an old-school mic drop on Nebuchadnezzar's ridiculously self-serving edict.

Noon

P.M.

Sun

Eve

Did you know?

The Jewish people were conquered slaves of the Babylonians at the time. By the king's rule, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were Babylonian names given to these three guys to make them assimilate to their new home. Their Hebrew names were actually Hannaniah, Mishael, and Azariah.

So, let's wrap it up



Vicky's
VIEW

When you think about obedience, what comes to mind? Do you think, "Yuck! That's when I have to do what someone else says or I'll get in deep trouble," or "I hate it when my parents are always telling me to do what I don't want to do." Bear with me for just a minute and I'll try to make this a little less painful. Think about why your parents (or teachers or other authority figures) tell you to do things a certain way. Is it really to be mean to you or make your life miserable? Even though you might think so, the answer is, generally, no. These adults care about your future and they want great things for you. It may not seem like it, but they have a good purpose behind the things they do. Shadrach, Meshach, and

Abednego knew that God had His reasons for wanting them to follow His rules. They also knew that He would never abandon them to a bad end. Now, you might think being thrown into a blazing hot furnace sure looks a lot like they were being abandoned by God, right? Think is, it only seems like it if you stopped reading the story right there. But it wasn't the end — not by a long shot. Now that you know the whole story, though, it is certainly clear that God knew (and had a purpose for) more about the situation than they did. God already knew things were going to turn out okay for these guys. The awesome thing is they plowed forward, trusting Him even without knowing what the outcome would be. Turns out God used the

opportunity to make a very important point to the king. Besides, He loved that those boys stood firm in obedience and He honored them through a miracle that everyone saw. They were proven to be correct and righteous — and approved by God. As you learn to trust God knows what He's doing, it's easier to do what He wants, because you will know by faith that it is always going to turn out better than if you had disobeyed. Yes, sometimes the immediate results don't look, feel or seem like a blessing. (Picture being thrown into the fire — and that a miracle is on its way.) Know this: If God allows an uncomfortable situation or painful event to happen in your life, you can rely on the fact that there is a better result coming.

He is all about pushing you to become your best you. Would you have a problem getting out into the cold pouring rain when you know you're heading to a movie you've waited months to see? Probably not. The only difference is that you know the end result, so you can tell the unpleasantness beforehand is worth it. With God, we don't often know the end result that's coming, but we don't have to know as long as we understand that He does. God will always lead us the best way, if we will just trust Him. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had it right when they held to their commitment to follow God, even to what looked like certain death (instead of giving in to an arrogant king). They loved God and were all in.

Ponder this:

Would you be obedient to God even if it meant you would get in trouble with others over it?

Time to take charge of your life:

(Fill in the blank)

has been bugging me lately, bringing me down. What can I do to change that? Do I need help from someone else? Who?

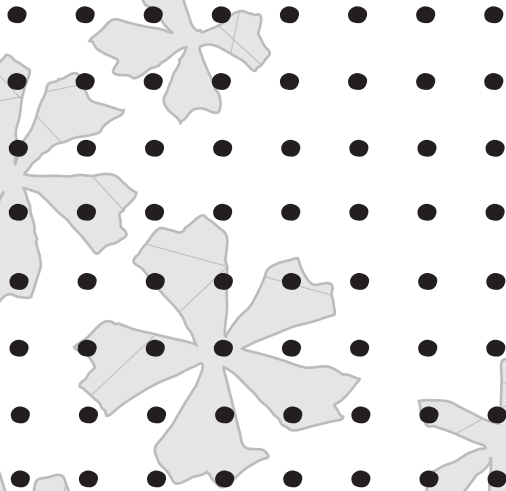
Something good that happened this week was:

Let's read:

Daniel 3

Claiming the promised land

To play, connect two adjacent (next to each other) dots. Take turns with your opponent. If you complete a square, you get another turn. The one with the most squares at the end of the game wins.



You are ...

incredible

Matthew 7:7

answer on page 318

H	T	I	A	F	T	R	E	E	D	I	D
A	H	D	E	U	T	A	T	S	G	O	A
T	H	R	E	E	S	T	F	I	G	G	N
O	B	A	B	Y	L	O	N	O	A	O	I
G	C	O	F	U	R	N	A	C	E	L	E
T	N	F	W	B	L	E	Y	A	J	D	L
I	L	I	N	M	D	R	E	A	M	Z	Y
F	N	X	K	E	Q	U	B	E	R	I	F
C	H	A	M	E	L	E	O	N	K	Y	O

GOLD
FIRE
FURNACE
STATUE
TREE
BOW

DANIEL
BABYLON
KING
GOD
DREAM
GIFTS

OBEY
FAITH
CHAMELEON
THREE
FIT
IN

Delight

Wandering the wilderness

Make your way along the words to make a sentence. Your journey will form one single path. You can only go north, south, east, or west and the path must never cross over itself. Start at the northwest corner and finish at the southeast corner.

N

W — E

S

D	A	R	E	T	L
O	U	O	N	O	O
N	T	Y	E	V	V
O	A	H	T	E	E
T	B	E	L	I	D



answer on page 334

What do you suppose was the expression on King Nebuchadnezzar's face when he saw the three young men survive being thrown into his super-hot, fiery furnace? Draw a picture of it.