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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## A Bold Faith Daniel 3:19-28

### Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews and aids in the understanding and emphasizes the complete dominance Nebuchadnezzar had over his subjects and how the three Hebrew boys maintained **A Bold Faith**. The study's aim is to explain and illustrate the total dependence Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had on their God. The study's application is to challenge us to realize that the God who delivered the three young men from the furnace can likewise deliver us from distressful circumstances.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### Lesson Introduction and Background

The book Hearts of Fire, published by Voice of the Martyrs, tells the stories of eight women who chose God in extreme circumstances. These women were forced out of their homes, watched loved ones perish in front of their eyes, and even faced death. Despite this, they boldly spread the gospel. To some of us, stories like these are just that—stories. We hear them in church, read them in our daily devotionals, or see them in the magazines we buy. But then we forget about them and move on. Perhaps we even think, "Well, God would not ask that of me. He only asks that of extraordinary people, those super believers with some special call on their lives. I am just an everyday person. I do not have that kind of courage." The truth is that the women featured in Hearts of Fire were also just ordinary women. They were not given some kind of special endowment, some special brand of courage. In the same way, the men in this week's lesson text were regular men trying to survive in an environment hostile to God. They were up against great opposition. The message given to them was clear: follow this way or die. It would have been easy to make an accommodation. That would have been the path of least resistance. These three could have said, "We can do this just this once. God knows we do not mean it, and He will forgive us. He will understand why we did it." That would have been the outwardly comfortable path to take. What happened became a testimony extending not only to a pagan kingdom but also to every believer reading the Scriptures. They emerged from the fire to an awestruck ruler and a new mission field. There will be times when God calls us to have great courage. As the time for His return draws closer, this will become even truer. Christ warned His disciples about this (cf. John 15:18—16:4). We must be bold. If you are like me, you are thinking that you are just an ordinary person with a normal amount of courage. When we read scriptural accounts of courage, we must dismiss the idea that it has no application to us. In fact, God loves best to use the everyday person, someone we might least expect. That is often the person He calls. As He does, that person's faith grows deeper and God's name and kingdom receive even greater glory. As believers, we need to remember that God will provide for our every need (Phil. 4:19). When He promised that, He was not simply speaking of material possessions. He was referring to the intangibles as well. God promised that we would not face anything alone (Heb. 13:5-6). Is God calling you to something daunting? Is He asking you to take a risk? Answer His call! We do not need to be some special breed of believers. All we need to do is have faith in Jesus. When we are lacking in courage, we need to trust Him to make it complete. Let us go forth and spread His gospel with confidence, trusting that He is with us every step of the way.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
Courage is fear that has said its prayers

**COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:**  
Ask God for good judgment and courage To face unexpected events; To follow the teachings of Scripture Is the best, most effective defense. —Hess

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*

(2 Tim 1:7 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Sept 5, 2000)*

### **Series: Faith in Action**

**UNIT: A Living Faith in God**

### NEXT WEEK

**A Prayer for an Obedient Faith**

(Dan 9:4-8,15-19)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Faith Confronting Death (Dan 3:19-23)**

#### *Death commanded by anger (19-21)*

Anger because of wanting the same things as others (1 Sam 8:10-19)

Anger because of being envious of others (Matt 20:8-15)

Anger over other's blessings (Luke 15:25-32)

Anger because of not understanding spiritual things (1 Cor 2:12-14)

Anger because of being prideful (Prov 13:10)

Anger because of wanting to be the greatest (Mark 9:33-35)

Anger that lets the devil get a foothold (Eph 4:26-27)

Anger that does not bring about the righteous life (James 1:20)

Anger because of hating others (1 John 3:13-15)

#### *Death brings collateral damage (22-23)*

Damage to the whole family (Josh 7:20-26)

Damage because of foolish behavior (Job 5:3-4)

Damage because of wickedness (Prov 14:11)

Damage because of sin (Rom 5:12)

### **Faith Demonstrated to Others (Dan 3:24-28)**

#### *Demonstrated by sight (24-25)*

Seeing God's power to overcome death (John 11:43-45)

Seeing by Jesus unveiling spiritual eyes (2 Cor 3:13-18)

Seeing good deeds (1 Peter 2:12)

Seeing what God says come true (Numbers 11:23)

Seeing that God saves His anointed (Psalms 20:6)

#### *Demonstrated by action (26)*

Action of relying on God regardless of the circumstances (2 Cor 1:8-9)

Action of keeping the faith to the finish (2 Tim 4:7)

Action of faith and actions working together to make faith complete (James 2:22)

Action of throwing off everything that hinders (Heb 12:1)

Action of confirming and proving God's trust (1 Cor 4:2)

#### *Demonstrated by results (27)*

Results because God answers the call of prayer (Isa 58:9-10)

Results because of obedience (1 Sam 15:22)

Results because of abiding in Jesus (John 15:7)

Results because God gives the victory (1 Cor 15:57)

#### *Demonstration results in acknowledgment (28)*

Acknowledgement of God will happen because God has sworn it (Isa 45:22-24)

Acknowledgement of God at the time of accountability (Rom 14:11-12)

Acknowledgement of God after being humbled by God (Dan 4:31-34)

Acknowledgement of God through revelation (Matt 16:15-17)

Acknowledgement of God through the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:2-3)