

Reflection Time Leader



Overview

Knights will...

- ▣ Discuss what it means to stand true
- ▣ Connect the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego standing true with stories in their own lives
- ▣ Be challenged to stay true to God like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Materials

- ▣ Age-specific **Student Books** and/or **Reproducible Fun Pages**
- ▣ **Bible Story Activity Stickers** (for younger elementary only)
- ▣ Markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils
- ▣ **Knights of North Castle Complete Music CD** or audio file of the song “Knights of North Castle”

Timeline

for 20-minute centers

- ▣ 4 minutes: Icebreaker
- ▣ 3 minutes: Discussion
- ▣ 7 minutes: Journaling
- ▣ 4 minutes: Reflection
- ▣ 2 minutes: Prayer and Worship

for 15-minute centers

- ▣ 3 minutes: Icebreaker
- ▣ 2 minutes: Discussion
- ▣ 5 minutes: Journaling
- ▣ 3 minutes: Reflection
- ▣ 2 minutes: Prayer and Worship



Bible Story

Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego
Stand True

Daniel 3

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Truth!

Icebreaker

What's the Truth?

Knights, we will be together a lot here at North Castle, so let's make sure we get to know each other well! Every Reflection Time, we'll start with a short get-to-know-you activity or Icebreaker.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up for what they knew to be true. We are going to play a game to learn a little about each other. Each person will share:

- 1) Your name
- 2) Two things about you that are true
- 3) One thing about you that is not true

We will try to guess what is true about each person and what is not.

Discussion

- ❑ What do you think of when you hear that we are on a quest?
- ❑ Why do you think we are looking for the Belt of Truth? Why do you think a belt represents truth?
- ❑ Why do you think the truth is so important to us? To God?

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up for the truth and refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's statue, they were disobeying the king and disobeying the law.

- ❑ How might it have felt to disobey the king? How might we have felt if we were in Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's place?
- ❑ How do you think King Nebuchadnezzar felt when he realized the truth about the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

In our VBS theme song "Knights of North Castle," we sing, "*We are, we are ready for battle.*" We aren't singing about the kind of battle where we are violent or hurt others. What kind of battle do you think we are singing about?

(Optional: play/read the words to the song "Knights of North Castle")

Sometimes living how we need to as God's children is not easy. It might even seem hard like battle. But like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we know the truth that God loves us, is always with us, and helps us live for God.

Journaling

Younger Knights

First and second graders complete the activities on pages 2–4 of the **Younger Elementary Student Book** and/or pages 2–7 of the **Younger Elementary Reproducible Fun Pages**.

As Knights are journaling, discuss the following questions.

- ❑ **When did King Nebuchadnezzar want the people of his kingdom to bow to his statue?** *(when the special music played)*
- ❑ **Why do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego wouldn't bow?** *(They knew their God was the one true God.) Do you think you would have bowed?*
- ❑ **How do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego felt when they saw God's messenger in the fire?**

In the end, King Nebuchadnezzar learned the truth about the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He learned that their God—our God—would rescue them and stay with them in times of need and help them be strong.

Speaking of being strong, who can say our **Banner Verse with me?** *(“Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.” Ephesians 6:10)*

If you wonder how you can stand up for what is true like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, remember that you don't have to do it alone. Like our **Banner Verse** says, you can be strong in the Lord and in the strength of your God's power.

Older Knights

Third through sixth graders complete the activities on pages 2–4 of the **Older Elementary Student Book** and/or pages 2–7 of the **Older Elementary Reproducible Fun Pages**.

As Knights are journaling, discuss the following questions.

- ❑ **What law was passed that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not obey?** *(Everyone must bow to King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue when the special music played.)*
- ❑ **Why do you think they wouldn't obey this law?** *(They wouldn't bow to any god but their God.)*
- ❑ **Do you think there are laws today that people who follow God might not want to obey?**
- ❑ **What might make someone who follows God feel they should not obey a law?**
- ❑ **Can you think of some ways you might want to stand up for truth?**

Because Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stayed true to their God, King Nebuchadnezzar learned that their God—our God—would stay with them in time of need and help them be strong.

Speaking of being strong, who can say our **Banner Verse with me?** *(“Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.” Ephesians 6:10)*

Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you might be an example to others of how God can help you stand true and be strong in the Lord and in the strength of your God's power if you will trust God to be with you.



Reflection

Armor Up with God!

Knights, you'll probably find that being a Knight at North Castle is a bit different from other knights. The armor we are on a quest to find is different. It's not physical armor. And it's not for violence or for hurting anyone. This armor helps us stay with and love God, to know God's love for us, and to share that love with others.

- ❑ What do we know about God that is true? How do you think truth can be like a belt?
- ❑ How can knowing the truth about God's love for us help us be strong in the Lord?

Our Castle Callout is "Armor Up with Truth!" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were armored up—or protected and strengthened—by knowing the truth about the God who loves them, and by having a relationship with God.

- ❑ What are some ways you can learn about and know the truth about the God who loves us?
- ❑ What might help you have a closer relationship with God?

Those are good ideas! And, since we can surely grow closer to God by prayer, we are going to do that right now.

Prayer and Worship

We will close each of our Reflection Times with worship and prayer.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew the truth that God loved them and believed that God would be with them. They had given themselves to God over all others. We are going to do a responsive prayer. I will say a line then we all will respond with, "God who loves me, I am yours."

Leader: God, help me love and be true like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

All: God who loves me, I am yours.

Leader: God, help me wear the belt of your truth everywhere I go.

All: God who loves me, I am yours.

Leader: God, make me strong in you and in the strength of your power.

All: God who loves me, I am yours.

Leader: God, let me walk with you every day, every minute, and every hour.

All: God who loves me, I am yours. Amen!