

*Get Ready!***In a Fiery Furnace**

By: Betsy Moore

**Text**

Daniel 3

**Key Quest Verse**

“For the Lord is God and his love endures forever...” Psalm 100:5

**Bible Background**

Daniel was born during the middle of King Josiah’s reign. He probably heard messages from the prophet Jeremiah. In 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem and took the wisest men and most beautiful women captive. Daniel and his three friends were among the wise, handsome, young men who were taken as prisoners. They had a 500-mile journey ahead of them and as POW’s they didn’t know what to expect. Nebuchadnezzar was a vicious ruler who expected loyalty and complete obedience from everyone. He built a statue of gold 90 feet high and 9 feet wide. He wanted the people to unite and show loyalty to only the King. Nebuchadnezzar was a proud man and wanted his fame and kingdom to last forever. What better way to unite the people than to have them bow down and obey him. They were to acknowledge him each time they heard music and bow down to his image that was towering over them. King Nebuchadnezzar was in control of his kingdom and if anyone refused to bow at the sound of music he threatened to throw them in a fiery furnace. Would anyone dare to disobey him? The fiery furnace talked about in Daniel was probably used to bake bricks. It may have been heated hotter with a bellows to force air in to raise the heat. A blacksmith’s furnace can be raised to 1000 degrees F with bellows and possibly the furnace of Daniel’s day was just as hot since we are told in Daniel 3 that even the soldiers that were to place the three men in the furnace were killed from the flames. Being a prisoner of war in Iraq just south of Baghdad is no better today than it was in Daniel’s day. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego made the best of their situation being POW’s and they continued to worship and trust in God and no other.

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest**

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What I want my students to:

**Know:** Have faith in God and know He is always with you.

**Feel:** Safe in His loving arms.

**Do:** Trust in God that He will protect you.

**Leader's Devotion**

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News has spread of the Jessica Lynch capture in Iraq. The News media filmed every minute of this POW's rescue. A movie is being made about this brave young woman who suffered with multiple broken bones during an ambush and then was rescued from an Iraq hospital. Can you imagine the news frenzy that would have erupted during the days of Daniel and his three friends, if the current day media heard of prisoners being threatened of death by fire? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were POW's in almost the exact same location as Jessica Lynch, just south of Baghdad. Can you imagine the turmoil they endured knowing they were going to be thrown into a fire and burned to death? God was with them and protected them! Wouldn't it be great to get the media attention focusing on the wonderful works of God?

*Get Set!*



## Option A

Materials: 2 plastic bottles for each student

We're going to do an experiment with two different bottles today. These bottles look the same but they are very different. The bottles with the cap on it are filled with something. I want each one of you to pick up your bottle with no lid and try to squeeze it and squash it. (Give students a chance to squash their bottle) **Good job!** Next let's try the capped bottles. Use your muscles and try to squash the bottles. What happened? The bottle wouldn't squash because it was filled with faith. It might have bent a little but because it was filled with faith it is strong. Faith is what helps us to be strong and have courage and helps us get through some tough times. In our story today, we'll learn of three men who were having a tough time but with faith they were able to stand strong in their faith.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

## Option B

Materials: None

Tell the following story and ask students how they would react if in the same situation: Rachael fell into bed exhausted and thought of the events of the day. Her dad surprised her at school and invited her whole class to lunch at McDonald's to celebrate her birthday. Her mom and dad were very close to Rachael and they loved her very much. Rachael woke up in the middle of the night and smelled smoke. She jumped out of bed and opened the door. Flames jumped from the stairway up toward her room. She began to cry until she saw red and blue lights flashing on her wall. She could hear people yelling outside. She opened her window and heard someone call out to her, "Rachael, you have to jump!" Rachael was scared and couldn't imagine jumping from the second story of her house. Then she heard a familiar voice, "Rachael, it's your dad. Mom and I are safe, now we need you to jump." "I can't, I'm too scared," Rachael cried. "Rachael, I need you to trust me, and just step out onto the edge of your window and fall back. I'm right here and you will be safe." Her dad said. Rachael took a deep breath and leaned back! She opened her eyes to see her dad smiling at her as everyone cheered! Her dad kissed her and said, "Thanks for having faith in me!" Faith is when you let go and trust God, not because you can see or understand everything, but because you know that He loves you, and He will not let you hit the ground. In today's story we'll learn about three men who put their faith in God.

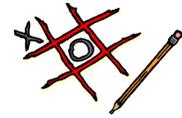
GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

**Get Set!****Bible Story**

Materials: None

Nebuchadnezzar was the king of one of the greatest kingdoms in the world a long time ago in the Old Testament days. He enjoyed attacking cities and taking their smartest, most handsome boys and training them to become leaders for him. How would you feel if someone came along and kidnapped you? Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were probably afraid and didn't know what was going to happen to them when King Nebuchadnezzar took them. They were taken to Babylon where King Nebuchadnezzar lived. He wanted them to eat the best food and he wanted them to drink his wine. He had them trained in something like a college for 3 years. After they were trained he made them into rulers of provinces. The king thought that he was such a mighty king and ruler and commanded that a very large idol of gold be made in his image. It was to be ninety feet tall. When the sound of music was made, he wanted all the rulers over the territory to bow down and worship the idol. Was this a good thing to do to show honor to the king? When the rulers learned of the king's command everyone bowed except for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They refused to worship anyone or anything but God. They stood up for what they believed in and they trusted in God to protect them, no matter what happened. Some people didn't like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and reported to the king, "You made a decree that everyone should fall down and worship the statue whenever they heard music but there are three men who won't." This made King Nebuchadnezzar very mad. He ordered that the three men be thrown into a fiery furnace. How many of you have a fireplace or wood stove in your home? Have you seen the hot fire burning? What happens to a piece of paper when you put it in the fire? The king was so mad he ordered the fire be made hotter before the three men that disobeyed were thrown in. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told the king they believed in God and that he would help them but they would never bow down to his statue. The king was furious and went to make sure the men were burned up in the fire. The three men were tied up with ropes and the guards moved closer to throw them in the fiery furnace. Suddenly the guards were caught on fire and burned up. The king looked closely to make sure the three friends were burning but to his surprise instead of being burned up, they were walking around in the fire. But there were four people in the fire. He couldn't believe it! There was an angel of God there protecting them. He ordered them to come out of the fire and ordered that no one in the country should say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were promoted and continued to worship the one true God. God protected the three friends who trusted in Him.

**Go!**



**Tic-Tac-Toe**

**GAME**

**Materials:** 8 1/2 x 11 paper with tic-tac-toe lines drawn on it, 5 cards of each X and O

**Quest Connection**

We are going to play a game of tic-tac-toe to see what we've learned about trusting in God with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The team with three in a row will win but we'll all be winners by learning more of God's Word.

**Procedure:** Divide the class into two teams. Give team leader #1 the X cards. Give team leader #2 the O cards. Ask team 1 the first question and let them discuss the answer and then reply. For each correct answer the team may place one card on the tic-tac-toe board. Ask the next question to team 2. If a team answers incorrectly the other team gets a chance to answer the question and place their card on the tic-tac-toe board. The team will still get to answer their questions also. The team that gets three in a row wins.

**Questions:**

**King Nebuchadnezzar wanted to be remembered so he built what? (a statue)**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were friends of \_\_\_\_\_. (Daniel)

The king of Babylon was \_\_\_\_\_. (Nebuchadnezzar)

King Nebuchadnezzar built a statue \_\_\_\_\_ feet tall. (90)

When music was heard everyone was to \_\_\_\_\_. (bow to the statue)

If someone refused to bow to the statue they would be \_\_\_\_\_. (thrown in fiery furnace)

God's chosen people are the \_\_\_\_\_. (Israelites)

The king wanted the three friends punished why? (for not bowing)

What killed the guards that threw the three friends in? (fire)

Where were the three friends taken for punishment? (the fiery furnace)

How many people were seen in the fiery furnace? (4)

Why wouldn't the three friends bow down? (they only bowed to God)

What was the thing that made the people bow down to the statue? (sound of music)

Were the three men hurt? (no)

What saved the three friends? (trust in God)

What was the statue made of? (gold)

God sent someone into the fiery furnace with the friends. Who was it? (an angel)

The three friends came out of the furnace when? (the King told them to come out)

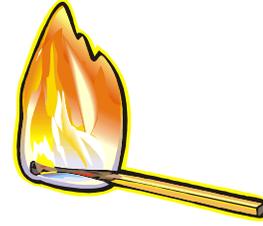
Who saved the three friends? (God)

Who do we need to put our trust in? (God)

**Close**

Thanks for playing tic-tac-toe together. Everyone did great!

**Go!**



### Unburned

#### EXPERIMENT

**Materials:** Cloth handkerchief, rubber band, metal tongs, glass bowl, ½ cup water, ½ cup rubbing alcohol, salt, matches, another bowl of water for washing hands.

**Procedure:** Before class tie a knot at two corners (across from each other) of a handkerchief to make it appear to be the arms of a man. Push your finger into the center of the handkerchief and form a head using a rubber band to hold it in place. In class have students place ½ cup water, ½ cup alcohol and let each student throw in a pinch of salt. Place the handkerchief man in the tongs holding him by the back at the shoulders. Dip the handkerchief into the solution and wring it out slightly so there are no drips. (WASH HANDS BEFORE YOU PROCEED, ALCOHOL IS FLAMMABLE AND IF IN CONTACT WITH FIRE WILL BURN YOU) Hold the man by the tongs over the bowl of clear water and hold a lit match at the bottom. (If it is a bright sunny day outside, turn out the lights) Explain what a dark time in the lives of these men it must have been expecting to be burned to death because they worshipped only God. When the alcohol burns from the solution the flame will go out leaving the wet handkerchief unburned.

### Quest Connection

**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worshipped God and did not bow down to the golden image of the king. King Nebuchadnezzar got mad and had the three men tied and thrown into a fiery furnace. God sent an angel to protect them. The fire did not hurt the men and they walked out of the fire without being burned. The king realized that the God of these three men was a powerful God. The three men were then given a promotion.**

### Close

**We just performed an experiment that seemed like magic. God’s protection of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego was no magic. There was not a layer of water on these men to keep them from burning. God performed a miracle and His power protected them. The Bible tells us that the soldiers that were nearby were burned up so we know that the flames were hot. But not hot enough to cool off God’s power!**

**Go!****Fiery Furnace****FOOD**

**Materials:** Marshmallows, toothpicks, cake pan, and a lighter

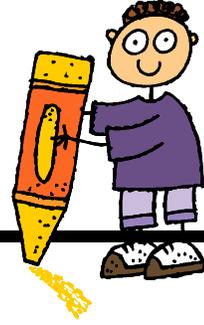
**Quest Connection**

Do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego felt lucky being so smart? After their long trip to Babylon or what we know today as Iraq, they didn't know what to expect. The king made a tall statue of gold and each time music was heard everyone was to bow down to the statue. If they disobeyed the king there was consequences to be paid. An announcement was made that any one not bowing down to the statue was to be thrown in a fiery furnace. This type of furnace was probably like a small building used to cook bricks to make them hard and weather resistant. Let's use these marshmallows and toothpicks and make a building with walls.

**Procedure:** Using toothpicks to connect marshmallows, make a furnace in a cake pan. Connect several toothpicks to marshmallows to create the building. Really make a fiery furnace using a lighter. Toast the marshmallows and let the children eat them. (Be cautious using fire with small children. Warn them of the dangers and make sure they understand never to do this themselves.)

**Close**

God used a powerful fire to prove that He is the One true God to worship! We must remember how dangerous fire is and we must never play with fire!

**Go!****Fire Protection****ART/CRAFT**

Material: Black construction paper, black, red, orange, and yellow crayons, Popsicle stick

Procedure: Give each child a piece of black construction paper, black, red, orange, and yellow crayons. Have students completely cover their paper with streaks of red, orange, and yellow crayon. Then cover the paper with black crayon over the other three colors. Using a Popsicle stick, begin at the bottom and scrape off the black crayon to let the red, yellow, and orange flames show through.

**Quest Connection**

We are looking at a black piece of construction paper. Without God in our lives we would have no hope of salvation and things would be pretty dark and bad. Let's add some color to our life as we let God work through us. Make your paper solid with the colors of red, orange, and yellow. Which do you think was better... black or colorful. Let's put black crayon on top of our multi-colored paper. Using a Popsicle stick we can draw flames through the black smoke (black crayon) to show what was in the fiery furnace.

**Close**

God protected the men in the fiery furnace! We must worship God and trust Him like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worshipped Him.

**Go!****Who am I?**

GAME

Materials: None

**Quest Connection**

Let's play a guessing game of "Who am I?":

I put out fires, who am I?

I cook food for my family, who am I?

I plant seeds in the field and grow food for people to eat, who am I?

I work at the school and help children learn, who am I?

I catch bad guys and protect good people, who am I?

I fly airplanes and take people places, who am I?

I help sick people get well, who am I?

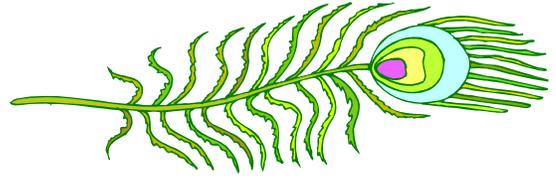
I serve people food in restaurants, who am I?



We've discussed a lot of different things that people do. What would you like to do when you grow up? What types of jobs do you do now? In our story today, we learned about three friends who probably had dreams of having a special job, but they were kidnapped and everything in their life changed. Does anyone remember the names of those three friends? Very good! Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew that the most important part of life was trusting in God and obeying His Word.

**Close**

All at once, I want everyone to shout out who we should trust and obey. (God!)

**Go!****Trust In God****GAME**

**Materials:** 2 paper plates and 2 feathers, and a starting line

**Quest Connection**

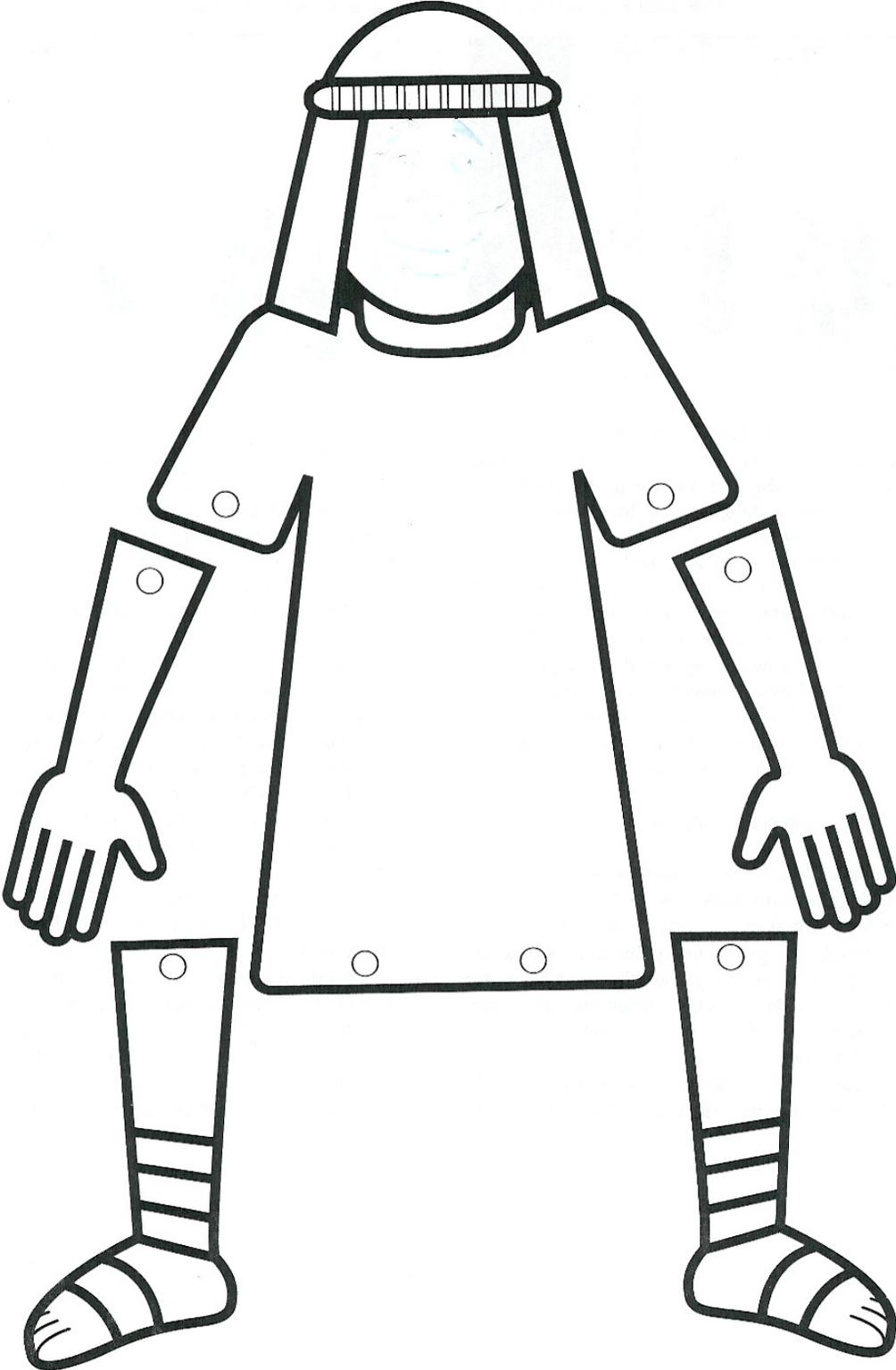
The friends wanted only to trust in God and obey Him. When they refused to bow to the king's statue they were going to be burned in the fiery furnace. They trusted in God and wanted only to bow and obey Him. In Luke 12:7, we read that "Even the very hairs of our head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows." God loves each one of us. In the game we are going to play, each time the feather drops just know that God knows when even one piece of your hair drops. God is there for you!

**Procedure:** Have students count off 1, 2, 1, 2 to form two teams. The ones should stand on one side of the classroom while the 2's stand on the other side. The teacher will stand at the opposite end of the room. Give the first child on each team a paper plate and a feather. Have the student place the feather on the plate and wait for the teacher's signal to go. The student must walk with the feather on the plate to the teacher and touch the teacher's hand and return to the next team member. If the feather falls off they must return to the starting point and begin again. The first team to complete the relay wins.

**Close**

If you were a prisoner of war who do you think you could trust?

Copy on cardstock. Draw a face on Shadrach. Cut him out and use brads to connect his arms and legs. Can you make him kneel and pray? Have him raise his arms to God in praise. Make three men (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego).



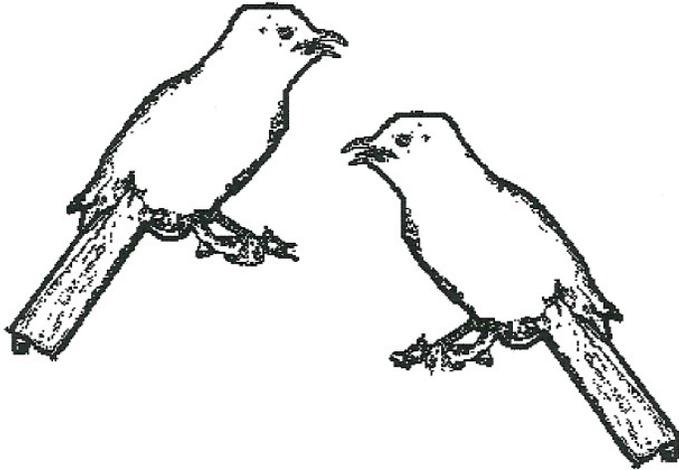
Journal Page: **God even knows the number of hairs you have on your head.  
He is always with you! Draw a picture of yourself.**



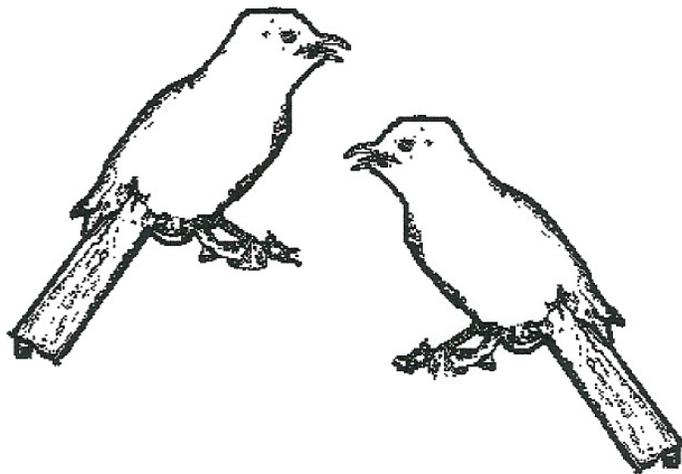
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**“For the Lord is God and his love endures forever...” Psalm 100:5**

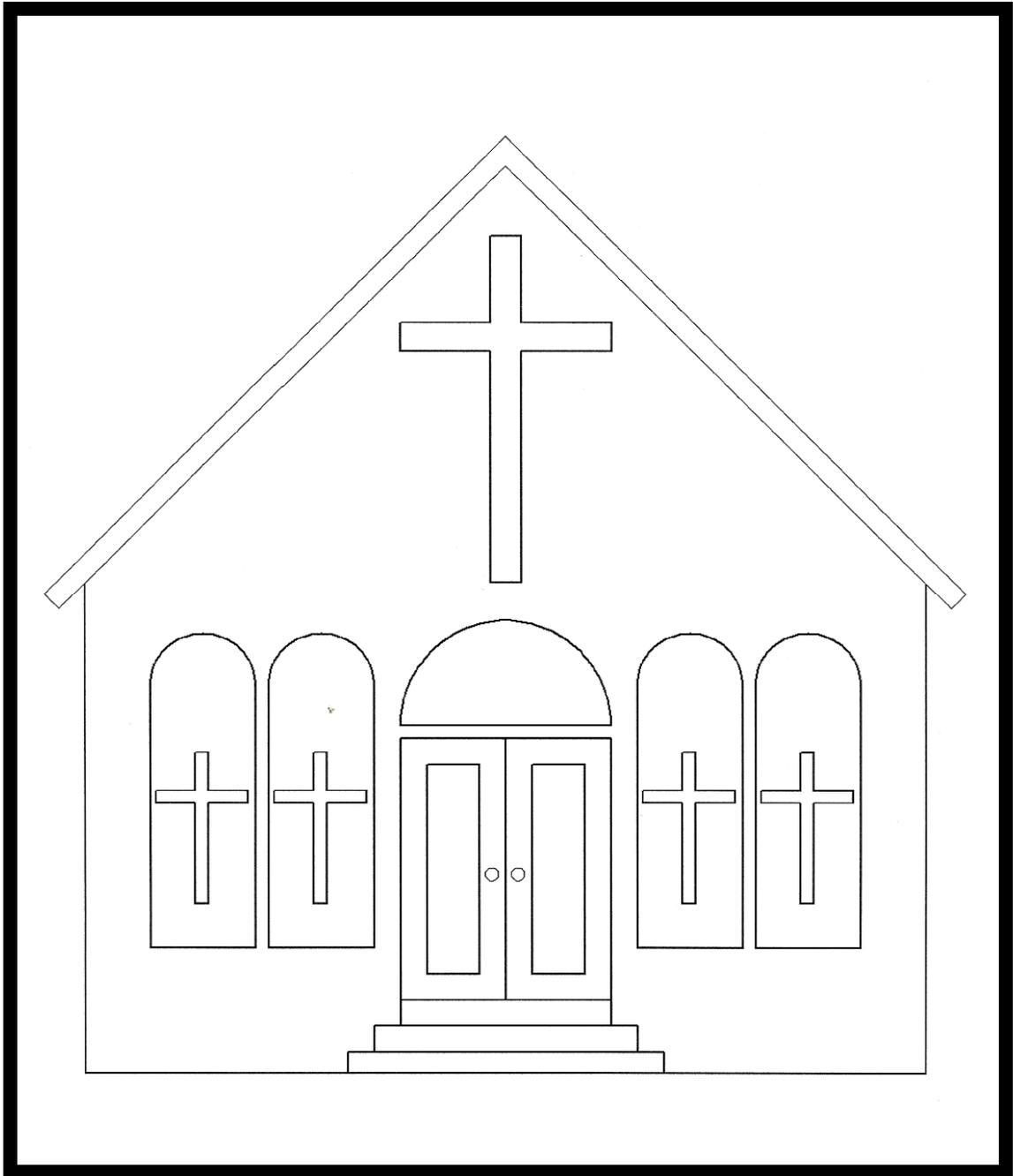
Coloring sheet: Color the birds and add some friends.



But even the very hairs of your head  
are all numbered. Fear not therefore:  
ye are of more value than many  
sparrows (Luke 12:7).



Coloring Sheet: **The friends, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego, worshipped God.**  
**Color the church to remind you of where you and your friends can worship**  
**God together. Invite a friend to church this week.**



**“For the Lord is God and his love endures forever...” Psalm 100:5**