



### 1. LET'S GET STARTED!

**GAME:** Have you ever played *Musical Cushions*? It's just like musical chairs but with cushions! Get some of your favourite music organised and chuck some cushions or pillows on the ground in your living room. Make sure there's one less cushion than the amount of people playing. Now get the music playing and when it stops, sit on a cushion as fast as you can, before you miss out!

**SONG:** Singing together, especially for children, can be a great way to both learn new things about God and communicate with him. Sing the song *Big and Strong* [here](#).



### 2. WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

**BIG IDEA:** Sometimes as we follow God, we might feel pressure or even be asked to do things which God might not want for us. Sometimes we give in to these pressures. Other times we might feel like fighting back. But Daniel's friends find a third way. They follow God *and* love their enemies.

**BIG QUESTION:** Is it sometimes hard to follow God when you are at school or with your friends or angry with someone? Why?



### 3. EXPLORE THE BIBLE TOGETHER

**READ:** Read the story of Daniel's friends (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) being thrown into a fiery furnace in Daniel 3:1-30. The story is quite long, but a good one to tell, so get dressed up and act it out. Imagine what it would have been like to be these young men.

**WATCH:** Watch some children retelling the story of Daniel 3:1-30 [here](#).



### 4. WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego wore the new clothes of Babylon. They used their new Babylonian names and they learnt the new language and customs.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think they refused to bow down to the statue?
2. Have you ever felt this pressure to join in with everyone else, knowing this might lead you away from God?

Try to imagine the scene in verses 16-18 where the young men say they will not bow to the statue. The king goes into a rage. But they believed that God would be with them as they laid down their lives.

3. What do you think helped them to be willing to lay down their lives for God?

### THIS WEEK...

This is the second time in the story of Daniel and his friends where God has helped them to follow him *and* love their enemies. They are never rude to their enemies as they are caught refusing to bow down to the statue. Look at verse 28 again. Following God *and* loving our enemies is a lifestyle of being prepared to lay down our lives. Pray to God about what this looks like for you this week.



WORSHIP  
MISSION  
COMMUNITY

is becoming passionate and dependent children of God.  
is becoming adventurous and influential representatives of God.  
is becoming a generous and resilient family of God.

