



date

2.9



“ HE NEVER FAILS;
HE *NEVER*
FALLS SHORT. ”

Inspire (for parents)

I am a rescuer. I do all I can to rescue my children from trouble. I never want them to experience pain. This may sound like a good thing, but most times it is not. Most times it is because my children experiencing pain might cause me pain. At the root of this rescuing problem is really a lack of trust that God will rescue my children at the proper time.

Remember the saying, “No Pain, No Gain?” It is a popular phrase used in the bodybuilding world. Basically it means if your muscles are not hurting after a workout, you will not achieve your desired results. Paul tells us in Romans 5:3–5 to “rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

Rescuing my children at the wrong time does not allow for them to build their faith muscles, which are desperately needed for them to grow into the men and women God desires for them to be: men and women with godly

character that gives them hope to face the world in which we live.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul recognizes God’s perfect timing. He writes, “Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers” (2 Corinthians 1:9–11). God rescues His servants and my children, at exactly the right time. He never fails; He never falls short.

by Debbie Guinn

Getting Started

Scripture: Daniel 3
(Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)

Main Point: God Rescues His Servants

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God’s Word **before your children attend church**. Because God’s plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children’s faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

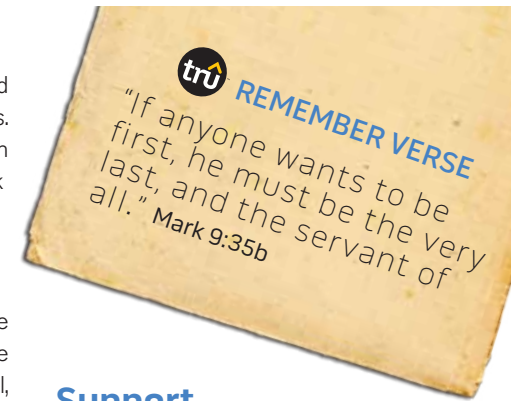
Equip (for parents)

In Daniel 3, God proved in a mind-blowing and miraculous way that He rescues His servants. When Babylon took over the nation of Judah and destroyed Jerusalem, the nation also took Hebrew men captive to serve them. Among those taken into captivity were Daniel and his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

During their captivity, the Babylonians gave them Babylonian names: “to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.” The goal of the Babylonian king was to make these followers of Israel’s God conform to the Babylonian culture and religion. But even when these men found themselves completely submerged in the Babylonian culture—even to the point of having their names changed—they did not compromise their faith in the one true God.

The first challenge came when they were asked to eat Babylonian meat. This meat most likely was offered to idols or prepared in ways that violated the law. So Daniel and his friends chose to be obedient to God’s law and chose to eat only vegetables. God rewarded them for their obedience. They became even stronger than the men who ate the king’s food.

The Babylonians tried to make these Hebrew men conform to their culture and ways. Though, in many ways, Daniel and his friends reflected Babylonian culture through their appearance, the names they were given, and the language they spoke, their similarity was only skin deep. Their hearts served God.



Support

(for parents & kids)

➤ **JUST FOR FUN**, light a fire in your fireplace or a candle. Have everyone gather round the fire or candle and together read **Daniel 3**.

After reading this part of The Big God Story, ask your children what stood out to them. Share with them what amazed you in this passage of Scripture. Remind your children that when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fiery furnace, God protected them so well that they didn’t even smell like smoke.

Discuss together areas in your kids’ lives where it may be hard to stand up for God. Pray with them about those areas, and thank God He will give them the strength to stand up for Him and will rescue them at exactly the right time.

Remind your children they will learn more about this part of The Big God Story in church this week.

“Thank God He will give them the strength to stand up for Him ...”

