

Black History School

God's Glory...Our Story

Taken Treasure Series • Based Selected Stories from the Book of Daniel

BHS Overview

Black History School (BHS) relates powerful stories from the past to our present. By studying similarities between the Book of Daniel and Black History, we will discover how we can change our world today.

Lesson 1 Review

No matter which president is in office, God is in control, (Daniel 1:21). Our story did not begin with slavery as Africa is home to the earliest civilizations.

Lesson 2 Review

We are divine originals, differently gifted by God, and descendants of royalty. As such, we must dare to be different. Our obedience to God will put us in places, where our gifts will glorify God.

<p>Series Theme: <i>Taken Treasure</i> (Selected Stories from Daniel)</p>	<p>Lesson Objectives: To see how we can attract people to Jesus. To identify people in history who took a stand.</p>
<p>Lesson Theme: <i>A Time to Stand</i></p>	<p>Key Verses: Daniel 1:15 and 3:10-28</p>

Supply List:

Markers, Colored Pencils

Activity Sheets

- Courageous Souls
- Transformers

Vocabulary in Context (some of these words have additional meanings in other contexts):

evangelism - the spreading of the gospel by personal testimony

testimony - telling someone else about your relationship with Jesus

captor - someone who catches a person and keeps him or her confined

compromise – accept lower standards

obey - to behave according to a rule, law or instruction

distinguish - to mark as separate or different

infantry - a branch of an army made of soldiers ready to fight on foot

Today we are going to read about Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego) taking a stand for God, creating space for God to show up, and the king's heart being turned toward God. We're going to see how we can attract people to Jesus. Then we will talk about courageous souls in Black History who have transformed our world.

First, we will review these boys' obedience to God in chapter 1 and how God blessed them because of it.

Refer to Key Verse Daniel 1:15 (This will serve as a recap of Lessons 1 & 2.)

1. Review those who chose to transform the world around them rather than conform to it.

In the Biblical Text

Transformers Rather Than Conformers

(Romans 12:1 & 2)

Daniel 1:3

Four young men are carried away from their homeland, where worship of "the God of heaven" was a way of life

Daniel 1:4 & 5 and 3:13-15

Their captor, King Nebuchadnezzar wants them to learn Babylonian history, eat Babylonian food and worship Babylonian gods

Daniel 1:7

The Babylonians change their names

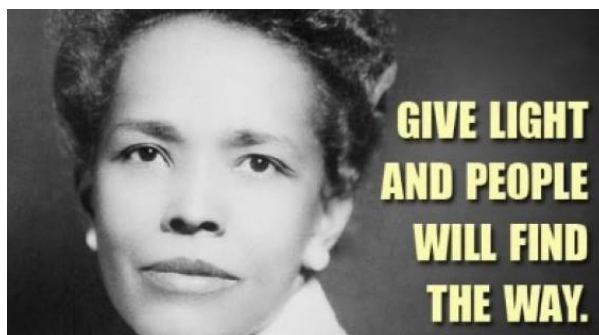
Daniel 1:8

They do not compromise their characters, customs or beliefs (Exodus 20:3-5a)

Daniel 1:10-16

Their obedience to God makes others around them curious about God

In Black History



Ella Baker¹



John Lewis²

2. Review how God **gifted** Daniel and his friends.

Divinely & Differently Gifted

(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

- God gifts Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah with extraordinary knowledge and skill (Daniel 1:17 & 19)
- Their gifts distinguish them for service in high places in the king's court (cf Proverbs 18:16)

Lesson 3 Focal Text: Daniel 3:10-28

1. Read, Daniel 3:10-12 aloud

¹⁰ Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, ¹¹ and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹² But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

Ask: *What is happening here? Who can explain this in their own words? Who are the people involved?*

2. Read Daniel 3:13-15 aloud

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

Ask: *What is happening here? Who can explain this in their own words? Who are the people involved?*

¹ <https://stmarkamenyc.org/pastors-weekly-word-1/f/women%E2%80%99s-history-month-ella-baker-civil-rights-activist>

² <https://wagingnonviolence.org/ipra/2020/09/we-need-new-sncc-tackle-todays-burning-injustices/>

3. Read Daniel 3:16-18 aloud

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Ask: *What is happening here? Who can explain this in their own words? Who are the people involved?*

4. Read Daniel 3:19-23 aloud

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

Ask: *What is happening here? Who can explain this in their own words? Who are the people involved?*

5. Read Daniel 3:24-28 aloud

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty." ²⁵ He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." ²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. ²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

Ask: *What is happening here? Who can explain this in their own words? Who are the people involved?*

Discussion:

- a. How did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's actions set the stage for God to show up?
- b. How did God show up?
- c. How did the king react when God showed up?

Black History Parallels – *Courageous Souls*

1. Now it is time to make some connections between Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego taking a stand for God in the Bible and African Americans who refused to compromise and changed the world.
2. Pass out activity sheet. (You might choose to complete this task as a whole group) Read the title aloud and inform students that the class will read each person's story and discuss or think about how these individuals changed the world.

Application Activity - *Transformers who are Taking a Stand Today*

This exercise is designed for students to add present-day people to the list of individuals whose courageous actions set them apart from the crowd. Encourage them think about people they know from school, books, church and life in general.

Ask: *Who do you know that has courageously taken a stand - like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - by doing the right thing when everyone else was doing the opposite?*

Instruct Students:

1. Under the *Transformer* column, you can draw a picture of the person or write their name in cool lettering. {depending on grade level}
2. Under the *Taking a Stand* column, please write exactly what they did that made them stand out from others around them. (Remind students that the church/ekklesia is made up of "the called-out ones.")
3. In the last column, say or write out if you would be able to do what they did. Explain your answer.