



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Teen Heroes of the Bible  
Fall Year 2, Lesson 17

# Rack, Shack and Benny— Fireproof Faith

**Take Home Point:** \*When it's time to take a stand, lean on Jesus. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Daniel 1 & 3, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to worship an idol.

**Key Verses:** 2 Chronicles 20:17, "...Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you...Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you." (NIV)

Isaiah 43:1-2, "...Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine... When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." (NIV)

## **We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, taking a stand for God and rescued from the fiery furnace.
- Peer pressure sometimes causes kids to bow down to negative models, but Christ will help them take a stand.
- Through faith in Christ, we stand in God's approval. That makes it easier to take a stand for him.

## **We will help kids feel:**

- Confidence to be bold and take a stand for their faith.
- Encouraged from the godly support of their Christian peers.

## **We will help kids do:**

- Play a warm-up game where they rely on each other to take a stand.
- Participate in a drama based on three teenagers who stand up for their faith.
- Make a take-home project to remind them that Jesus will help them take a stand.
- Discuss some of the peer pressure situations they face or might face in the future that force them to lean on Jesus and take a stand.

**Kingdom Quest Year 2 - Lesson 17 - 1**

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids do an activity supporting each other in an attempt to stand up. They discuss how they can stand up to peer pressure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  8       13	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Audience Participation Drama:</b> Teen Idol: Rack, Shack, and Benny... Fireproof Faith. This interactive variety show features various teen contestants in a faith-based talent competition. The Bible event of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego is told with audience participation.</p> <p><b>Teen Testimony:</b> A teen guest and role model may share how he/she has encountered peer pressure, particularly related to the sharing of faith, and doing the right thing when it's not the popular option.</p>	<p><i>Stage set:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• three stools at side</li> </ul> <p><i>Band Instruments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• kazoos</li> <li>• pan and wooden spoon (drum and drum stick)</li> <li>• toy horn</li> <li>• harmonica</li> <li>• stringed instrument</li> <li>• tambourine, etc.</li> </ul> <p><i>Costumes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• three pairs of sunglasses</li> <li>• three baseball caps or other "cool-looking" accessories</li> </ul> <p><i>Teaching Props:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 foot tape rule</li> <li>• Butane torch, flash paper, or Butane lighter to illustrate fire</li> <li>• guest teen to share about standing up to peer pressure</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Students will review and apply learned material and make a plaque and stand from the letter J ( <i>for Jesus</i> ). They will choose a verse to remind them of this lesson's concepts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "J" pattern on 8 ½" X 11" cardstock for each student (<i>p. 14</i>)</li> <li>• half sheets of cardstock for each student</li> <li>• printed phrase, "When It's Time to Take a Stand, Lean on Jesus," on colored paper or labels (<i>p. 16</i>)</li> <li>• copies of verses to choose and write on the craft (<i>p. 15</i>)</li> <li>• markers, glue, glitter, etc. for decorating</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

**As kids gather:** Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.

**NOTE:** Be sensitive toward those choosing not to participate in this activity due to a physical limitation or choice of attire for the day. Try to give them the job of encouragement, to give advice to their peers to help coordinate the effort, or announce the winning partner groups if a speed competition is desired.

Have kids find partners, sit back-to-back, lock elbows, and try to stand up at once. The key is for each student to figure out the correct amount of give-and-take to exert the right amount of pressure backwards so both may easily rise together.

Once partner sets have successfully demonstrated this activity, try it with three people, then four, and see if the entire group can accomplish taking a stand together. After the game and laughs are over, discuss the following questions.

**Tell about a time when someone made a situation difficult for you because you did the right thing when others around chose not to. They may have laughed at you or teased you for choosing to do the right thing.**

**Tell about a time that was hard for you to take a stand for Jesus or when you received some unkind comments for talking to someone about God.**

*Kids will like to hear your personal story.*

**Today's Bible event is about some teenagers that took the heat and stood up for their belief in God. We will also learn that *\*when it's time to take a stand... lean on Jesus.***

## Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Audience Participation Drama:** Teen Idol: “Rack, Shack, and Benny... Fireproof Faith.” This interactive variety show features various teen contestants in a faith-based talent competition. The Bible event of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego is told with audience participation.

**Teen Testimony:** A teen guest and role model may share how he/she has encountered peer pressure, particularly related to the sharing of faith, and doing the right thing when it’s not the popular option. He/she is invited to talk about a time when he/she chose not to go along with peer pressure at school, at an event, activity, or with friends.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Daniel 3 in their Bibles.

**What did King Nebuchadnezzar build to create the image of himself as a god?** *(Daniel 3:1. A 90’ gold statue of himself to be worshiped by all.)*

**What was his daily signal to the town that it was time to bow down and worship him?** *(Daniel 3:5. The band would play.)*

**What punishment did those who refused to bow down to his gold statue receive?** *(Daniel 3:6. They were thrown into the fire.)*

**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow down to an idol. How did they respond when brought before King Nebuchadnezzar and he threatened them?** *(Daniel 3:17-18. They said that their God was mighty enough to save them, but even if he didn’t, they would never honor other gods or worship the gold statue the king set up.)*

## Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**Why do you think some astrologers brought the charge to Nebuchadnezzar that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow down to his image?** *(Daniel 3:8. They may have been jealous that these foreigners were put in positions of authority as seen in Daniel 3:12.)*

**Why do you think this angered Nebuchadnezzar?** *(Maybe he favored these young men and didn't want to punish them. Maybe he was so proud that he could not understand why they would not obey his command.)*

**Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar heated the furnace seven times hotter when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow down to his statue?** *(Maybe because he was so angry. Maybe he did not want to take a chance that the true God could save them. He was so proud that he wanted to show how powerful he was.)*

**Why do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were saved?** *(They stood up for their faith and God was faithful to them. God demonstrated his power, so others would believe.)*

**How did God show he was mighty and powerful?** *(Daniel 3:22, 25, 27. Even though Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tied up when thrown into the furnace and it was so hot that the guards who threw them in were killed, they walked around untied inside the furnace and when they walked out their clothes and hair were not singed, nor did they smell like smoke.)*

## Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

### Application Activity:

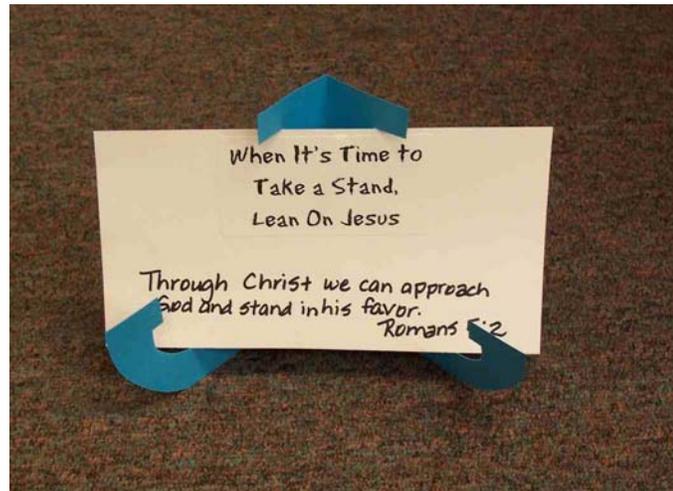


*Supplies Needed: "J" pattern on 8 ½" X 11" cardstock for each student, half sheets of cardstock for each student, printed phrase, "When It's Time to Take a Stand, Lean on Jesus," on colored paper or labels, copies of verses to choose and write on the craft, markers, glue, glitter, etc.*

*Cut out the "J" patterned stand. Have kids fold it in half to stand up. When folded, it will look like the letter "J." Tell kids the stand symbolizes Jesus and \*when it's time to take a stand, they can lean on*

*Jesus just like the card will lean on this stand.*

To make the card plaque, have kids affix the take home point sticker to the half sheet of cardstock. Then have them choose a verse to copy onto it from Appendix B and decorate with markers, glue, glitter, etc. (Have kids keep the Bible Passage Options in their Bibles for future reference.)



Discuss the following while kids make their craft project.

**Why do you think some people want to intimidate us for our faith? Could it be for some of the same reasons Nebuchadnezzar and his astrologers were angry at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?**

**Who do you think was the fourth man in the blazing furnace, the one Nebuchadnezzar referred to as one who looks like a “son of the gods?”** *(Some scholars believe this was the pre-incarnate Jesus.)* **What can we learn from this?** *(That God will be with us even in the midst of our “fiery furnace.”)*

**A key verse for today from Isaiah 43:1-2 says, “...Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine... When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”** (NIV)

**How does this promise from God make you feel when you are afraid to stand up for what is right?**

**God is always in control. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew God was mighty to save but also said they would be faithful to God even if he chose not to save them.**

**We can trust in God to keep his promises because he loves us enough to send his only Son to die for us. He has redeemed us through the blood of Jesus and we are his when we believe this.**

**Can you think of people that stood up for their beliefs but suffered or died anyway? Did God still have a hand in this? How do you think God used this situation?** *(Others may have come to the saving knowledge of Christ because of the boldness of those who believed so strongly even in the face of death. Have some examples like: Jim Elliot and the Auca Indians, Colombine shooting, etc....)*

**Is death a bad thing for a believer?** *(Even though it may be scary, we can have the assurance that if we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we will go to heaven and be with him when we die. It is still a happy ending.)*

**If faced in a life or death situation with the option of taking a stand for your faith or lying about your faith to save your life, what would you choose?** Discuss.

**Have you ever taken a stand? Describe what happened. Is there a time you should have taken a stand, but did not?**

Give an example from your own life.

**Do you understand that God is able to rescue us in times of trouble, but even if he doesn't, we can still trust him?**

Conclude with:

**Another key verse for today from 2 Chronicles 20:17 says, “...Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you...Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you. (NIV)**

**Today we have learned that *\*when it's time to take a stand, we can lean on Jesus. He will always be with us.***

Closing Prayer:

Pray for strength during times it may be difficult to stand up for our faith. Ask that God be with the kids, as it may happen in the future. But most importantly, offer up to God praise and thanksgiving for this time to learn together and be in his word. Remind kids that the gift of enthusiasm and excitement for what they learn and do at church is infectious, and pray that they find it easy to share with others.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## Teen Idol: Rack, Shack, and Benny... Fireproof Faith Audience Participation Drama

### Props

#### Stage set:

- three stools at side

#### Band Instruments:

- kazoos
- pan and wooden spoon (drum and drum stick)
- toy horn
- harmonica
- stringed instrument
- tambourine, etc.

#### Costumes:

- three pairs of sunglasses
- three baseball caps or other “cool-looking” accessories

#### Teaching Props:

- 20 foot tape rule
- Butane torch, flash paper, or Butane lighter to illustrate fire

### Volunteers needed:

- people to participate in the band of strange instruments
- actors to play Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

*The Large Group Presenter will tell this story from the front of the stage arranging Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego on one side and the make-shift band on the other side. He involves the audience in the story by giving them some verbal cues that will prompt their verbal refrain.*

*This setting recreates a variety show that features various teen contestants in a talent competition. Use kids from the audience as the contestants. The audience members all have a part so that they can easily participate. Encourage shepherds to participate as well.*

### Host Introduction: Raz Mattaz:

**Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Teen Idol Show! I am your host, Raz. That’s Raz Mattaz. Today our contestants for teen idols are actually a group of three guys from the Bible! Their names are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These young men are not only teenagers, but some of the coolest teenagers in the entire Bible! So, let’s find them in our audience now.**

Parts, Practice and Positions:

**I'm looking for someone very cool. In fact, I'm looking for three very cool people. Is there anyone cool out there or at least able to act cool?**

Select three volunteers. Give them each a pair of sunglasses, hat or other cool accessories. Seat them on three stools off to the side onstage.

**Now I need volunteers to play in my band! I know I have musical experts in the audience today. In the Bible, the musicians played the ram's horn, flute, lyre, harp, and zither, but today, I just need you to do your best with the fun stuff we have here.**

Select volunteers and hand them an instrument as they come to the front. Line up the band on the opposite side of the stage, across from the actors playing Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

**Band, as I tell the Bible event, whenever I say, "Hit it, band," that is the cue to play your instrument. You will only play for about ten seconds until I signal for you to quit with the cut-off sign.**

Demonstrate dragging your finger across your neck in the "cut!" sign.

**Let's practice. "Hit it, band!"... and... "cut."**

**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Your job is to snap your fingers to the beat while I read a poem.**

Demonstrate and have kids practice snaps.

**Girls in the audience you have a part, too. Your line is: "Hot... hot-hot," (Say it with a pause after the first "hot" and the second two "hots" are said closely together.)**

**Since we're being silly, as we say it together, use your deep whisper voice. You'll know it's your turn to say this line anytime I say the word "fire!" and point to you (if I remember). Even if I forget to point to you, just remember to try and say your line after I say the word "fire!" Remember your line is "Hot...hot-hot." Let's practice that now.**

Raz: **Fire!**

Girls: Hot...hot-hot.

Raz: **Boys, when I say the phrase, “Bow down,” you’ve got to say, “Way down.”** (Start the word “way” with a higher pitch and drop your voice lower as you say the whole phrase. It will sound like your voice is sliding down as you say it.)

**Let’s practice your phrase after I say the words, “Bow down.”**

Raz: **Bow down.**

Boys: Way down.

Raz: **Now we’re ready to begin our story.**

Storytelling:

**Today’s story begins with King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacking Jerusalem. He not only took some of the treasures from Jerusalem but he also captured some young, healthy, intelligent, good-looking men to serve in the king’s palace. Four of these men were named, Daniel, Hananiah, Michael, and Azariah. They were all given Babylonian names. To Daniel, he gave the name Belteshazzar. Then to the other three, he gave the names Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. This is their story:**

**Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had followed the ways of the living God and obeyed his laws all of their lives. Now that they were transported to a strange land, they were asked to do customs that were not familiar to them. For example, they were asked to eat food they considered unclean. They politely said, “No, thank you,” and asked to eat their own food saying that they would end up healthier anyway. And so it was. They ate the food that God had told them to eat in the Bible. They followed God’s special diet plan and were healthier than all the other young, wise counselors for the king.**

**King Nebuchadnezzar thought himself, “I’m pretty special. So special, the whole world should worship me.” So he ordered a very tall statue of himself made of gold.**

Take out tape rule.

**It was taller than from here to the ceiling.**

Put tape rule to the ceiling.

**As a matter of fact, it was taller than several ceilings or a ten story building. It was the largest gold statue ever made. And whenever people heard the sound of the ram’s horn, flute, lyre, harp, and**

**zither, with all other kinds of instruments, all the people from every nation and language were commanded to bow down...**

Boys: Way down

**... and worship this gold statue. Let's see if it works. Hit it band!**

Band plays... cut.

**Well, I didn't see anyone bow down. Maybe you should hear the rest of the story.**

**King Nebuchadnezzar said that if you choose not to bow down...**

Boys: Way down

**... you will pay with your life. As a matter of fact, I'll have you thrown into fire.** Light butane lighter or flash paper.

Girls: Hot...hot-hot.

**So, hit it band.**

Band plays... cut.

**Still I didn't see anyone bow down.**

Boys: Way down.

Address the three cool teens:

**If you would have been in Babylon then, you would have been the only ones not bowing down or the only ones standing and you would have ended up in the fire.**

Girls: Hot...hot-hot.

**And so it happened, that some of the astrologers and wise men who worked with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't like the idea that they followed a different God. They didn't realize that he was the only true and living God. But they did figure that this would be a good way to get rid of the three young men. So they pointed out, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and said, "Good King, didn't you say we should bow down...Boys: Way down...when we hear the band? Well, check this out!" Hit it band!**

Band plays... cut.

**“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are still standing! Don’t you think you should throw them into the fire?”**

Girls: Hot...hot-hot.

**So the three were brought to King Nebuchadnezzar and given an ultimatum. He said, “Bow down...”**

Boys: Way down.

**“...Or else, it’s the fire for you!”**

Girls: Hot... hot-hot.

**This was their response.**

The three kids should have their sunglasses on. Have them stand up and begin to snap their fingers in cadence to the following rhyme.

Introduce Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, also known as Rack, Shack and Benny. Start them snapping their fingers to a beat. Then read the rhyme.

**NEBuchadNEZZAR, we KNOW you’re the KING.  
WE’RE just TEENS, but HERE’S the THING.**

**That NINEty foot Idol, it’s JUST a ROCK,  
It AIN’T no GOD, it CAN’T even TALK!**

**YOU say, “BOW down” or ELSE we’ll FRY  
WE say, “NO way,” don’t CARE if we DIE.**

**But OUR God’s REAL, he’s STRONG enough to SAVE  
We’ll call on HIM, he KNOWS when we PRAY.**

**So FIRE up the FURNace as HOT as you CAN  
‘Cause we WON’T bow DOWN, we’re TAK’N a stand.**

Have the three teens return to their stools.

**After hearing this, King Nebuchadnezzar was so furious at Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego that his face turned red. He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than normal.**

Light Butane lighter or flash paper.

**He ordered some soldiers from his army to tie up Rack, Shack, and Benny and throw them into the furnace. The fire was so hot that the**

**soldiers even died from its heat as they threw the three teens into the blazing fire.**

Girls: Hot...hot-hot.

**Soon after, King Nebuchadnezzar was startled. He sprang to his feet stating, “Didn’t we just throw three men into the fire?”**

**“That’s true,” his advisors answered.**

**“But look,” he said, “I see four! They’re untied and walking around in the middle of the furnace unharmed. The fourth one looks like the Son of God!”**

**King Nebuchadnezzar called to them, “Come out!” Rack, Shack and Benny came out of the furnace. Then the king and his royal advisors gathered around. They saw that the fire hadn’t harmed them at all.**

**It was then that Nebuchadnezzar realized the truth and said, “Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He saved them because they trusted him. They disobeyed me and risked their lives so that they would not worship or honor any other god than their own. Let there be an order this day that no one can speak anything badly about their God or they will be put to death.”**

Return students back to seats in the audience and gather props.

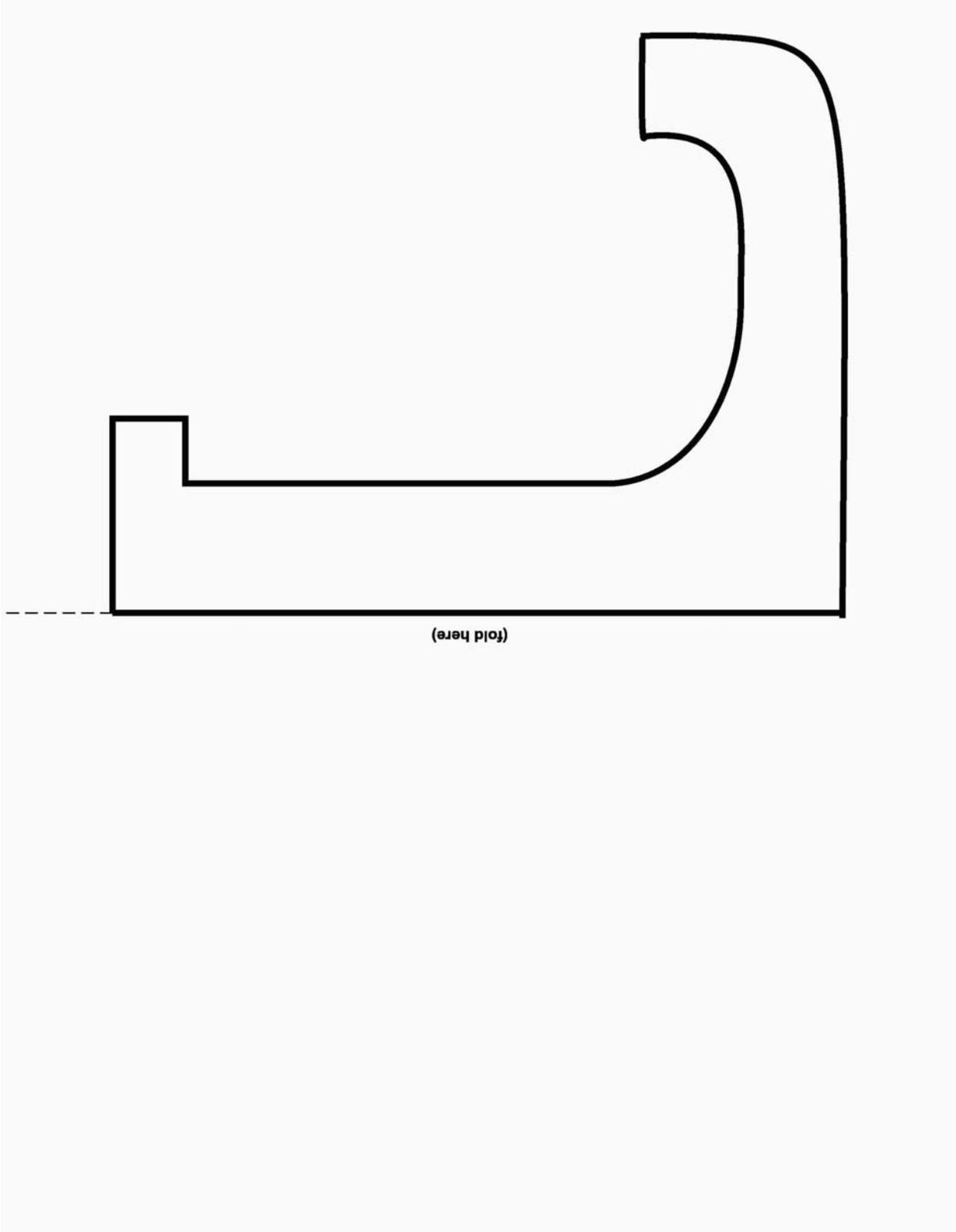
Teen Testimony:

Invite a guest teen to talk about a time when he/she chose to not go along with peer pressure at school, at an event, activity, or with friends. (Please keep this brief.)

Prayer:

**Dear God, thank you for being with us during this time to have some fun while learning the Bible event about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The trust and faith they had in you is amazing and we pray that in the same situation, we would respond in kind. Give us strength when this is difficult to do, but also help us to be excited about our faith and willing to share it with all. Protect us from having to face such a brutal test of faith but know that through Christ we will approach you and hope to stand in your favor. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

Play the following song as students return to small groups to make the craft and answer discussion questions. *The song Hot Hot Hot can be found on any number of 1980’s dance or sports album collections. Buster Poindexter is the artist for the most commonly used version. Rating 7. Genre ROCK Album Date Release Date Label RCA Mono/Stereo Stereo UPC 07863566334*



## Bible Passage Options

### **Exodus 14:13-14**

"...Don't be afraid! Stand still, and see what the Lord will do to save you today...The Lord is fighting for you! So be still!"

### **2 Chronicles 20:17**

...Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you...Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you. (NIV)

### **Isaiah 41:10**

Don't be afraid, because I am with you. Don't be intimidated; I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will support you with my victorious right hand.

### **Isaiah 41:13**

I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand and say to you, "Don't be afraid; I will help you."

### **Isaiah 43:1-2**

"...Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine... When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." (NIV)

### **Jeremiah 1:8**

"Don't be afraid of people. I am with you, and I will rescue you," declares the Lord.

### **Zephaniah 3:17**

The Lord your God is with you. He is a hero who saves you.

### **Romans 5:2**

Through Christ we can approach God and stand in his favor.

### **Ephesians 6:13**

For this reason, take up all the armor that God supplies. Then you will be able to take a stand during these evil days. Once you have overcome all obstacles, you will be able to stand your ground.

