



Black History School

God's Glory...Our Story

Biblically based • Culturally relevant • Education as liberation

BHS Overview

Black History School (BHS) relates powerful stories from the past to our present. By studying the similarities between selected passages from the Book of Daniel with certain aspects of Black History, we will discover the transformative influence we can have in the world today.

Lesson Aim:

To be encouraged and convinced to stand up for Christian values, as well as our own, understanding that we can change the course of history.

Time to Take a Stand

Daniel 3:8-28 (NIV)

8 At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. 9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! 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." 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?" 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[c] 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." 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 usual²⁰ 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. 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.

Discussion:

In the biblical account of Daniel 3:8-28, the narrative unfolds with the powerful king Nebuchadnezzar erecting a golden image for all to worship. However, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, young men of unwavering faith in the God of Israel, refused to bow down to the idol. Their stand for their Christian values was a remarkable demonstration of commitment and conviction. In the face of societal pressure, they showcased the importance of standing firm in one's beliefs, even when it goes against the cultural norm. This serves as a profound lesson for us today, inspiring us to be encouraged and convinced to uphold our Christian values in the midst of a world that may demand conformity to its standards.

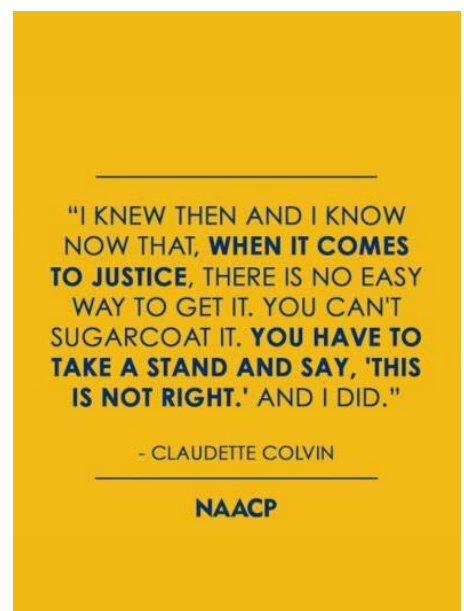
Nebuchadnezzar's belief in God was profoundly impacted by the unwavering obedience of these three young men. Witnessing their refusal to compromise their faith, the king was astonished and recognized the power of the God they served. This underscores the profound impact our obedience to God can have on those around us. In the context of evangelism to friends, or FRAngelism, our commitment to Christian values becomes a living testimony. Just as Nebuchadnezzar was influenced by the convictions of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, our friends can be drawn to Jesus through our steadfastness in living out our faith.

The actions of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not only spoke volumes about their faith but also demonstrated that refusing to bow to worldly standards can change the course of history. Their refusal to compromise led to a miraculous intervention by God, as they emerged unscathed from the fiery furnace. This powerful display of divine protection not only solidified the faith of the young men but also convinced Nebuchadnezzar that power belongs to God. As we embark on the journey of FRAngelism (evangelism to our friends, relatives, associates and neighbors), understanding that our actions can change the course of history should embolden us to stand up for Christian values with unwavering conviction, knowing that our obedience can be a catalyst for others to encounter Jesus in a meaningful way.

Black History Parallel – Claudette Colvin:

Claudette Colvin played a pivotal role in sparking the Civil Rights Movement through her courageous actions, embodying the theme of "It's Time to Take a Stand." In 1955, at the age of 15, Claudette refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. This act of defiance occurred nine months before Rosa Parks' more widely known protest. Claudette's bold decision to resist racial segregation laws showcased a determination to challenge injustice and inequality. Her refusal to comply with the discriminatory norms of the time ignited a spark that would later contribute to the larger movement for civil rights.

Despite facing arrest and condemnation from her community, Claudette's actions demonstrated the urgency of confronting systemic racism and the need for change. Her bravery in the face of adversity served as an inspiration for others to recognize that it was indeed time to take a stand against the oppressive racial norms of the era. Claudette Colvin's pivotal role in the early stages of the Civil Rights Movement highlights the power of individual actions in bringing about transformative social change.



Showcase Your Skills – Decision Making:

Scenario to be discussed in class.

Which action will you choose?

Option 1: Protest	Option 2: Be silent
Positives	Positives
Negatives	Negatives

Decision

I choose to _____

because _____
