

# Living Characters

Lubbock Christian University Center for the Development of Character

## Shadrach

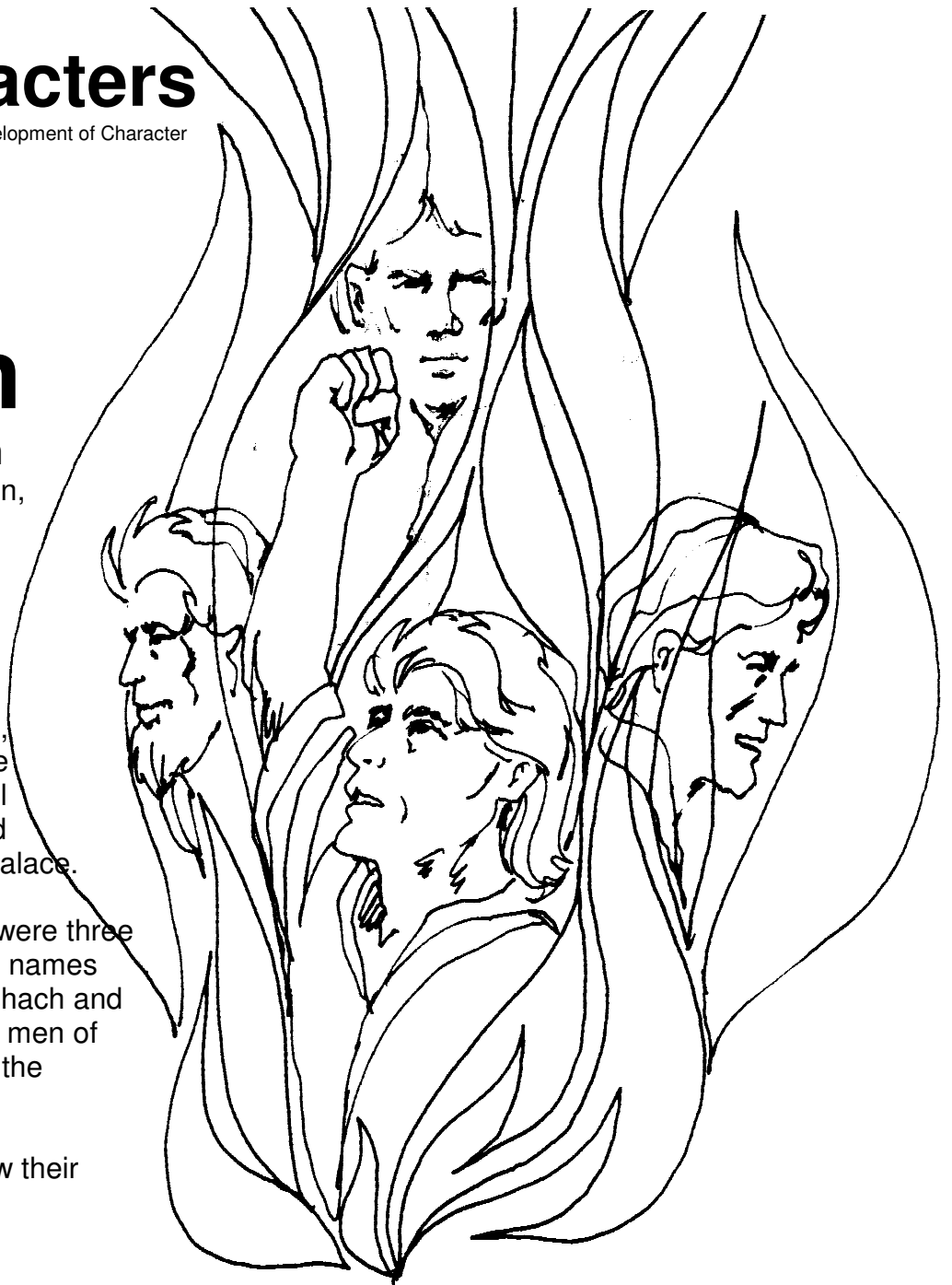
### Background Information

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, conquered the nation of Judah and took the people captive.

He asked his men to choose the best young men of Judah to serve in his palace. These young men had to be handsome, physically perfect, show aptitude for every kind of learning, be well informed, be quick to understand and be qualified to serve in his palace.

Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were three of the young men chosen. Their names were changed to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They were all young men of great character. Another one of the chosen ones was Daniel.

As we read this story we see how their **character** affected their lives.



### Give a brief overview of the story.

Who were the main characters?

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What was Nebuchadnezzar's decree?

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Why were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego put into the fire?

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# What were the results?

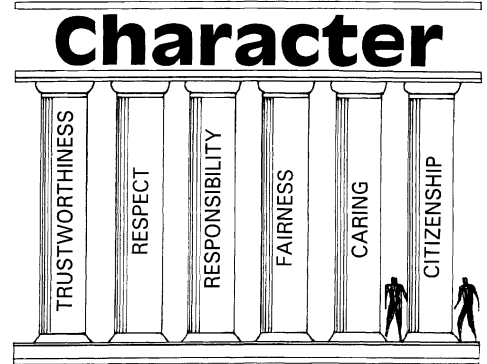
What did Nebuchanezzar see in the fire?

How did Nebuchadnezzar change?

## Six Pillars of... Character

### Understanding Values and Virtues

Babylon had a very good value system that had been in effect for centuries. It was very similar to the system the people of Judah had. In this story we see that the king was interested in having talented men of character in his palace. The 6 pillars of character are found in all cultures. Our challenge is to apply the Character Words to make our lives better.



The **Ethical Process** in finding solutions to any problem.

**T**

**Think**

**W**

**Weigh** all the parts which make up the problem. Separating the symptoms from the causes.

**I**

**Investigate** the perception of the ethical dilemma. Is it based on selfishness, self-interest, self-protection or self-righteousness. (The four natural enemies to ethics.)

**N**

**Now**, is right or wrong involved? How do we determine which is involved?

**K**

**Know** your ethical vocabulary (six pillars). Review and reflect on their supporting words.

**L**

**Look** for the higher ethic or standard.

**E**

**Evaluate** the outcome. Is it truly a good character decision?

## What Good Character Words caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to be thrown into the fire?

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What **bad Character words** caused them to be thrown into the fire?

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Why did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refuse to change when they were threatened?

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# Part 2

## Character is what I do!

### Thought Quiz

1. If my name was Shadrach what would I do if asked to go against something I believed?
2. What if no one was watching?
3. What if someone wanted to burn me?
4. What if I was the only person who wanted to do the right thing?

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### What will I do to keep developing good character in my life?

Trustworthiness

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Caring

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Respect

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Fairness

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Responsibility

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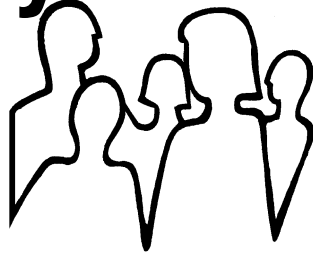
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Citizenship

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# Family Time



Spend some sharing time with family.

Tell the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to your family.

Have the family make up a modern story about standing up for what we believe.

**What are the character words in the family story? How do they work in the story?**

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We have spent time as a family in working on developing the character words in our lives.  
Mother or father \_\_\_\_\_

## My Diary

What have I done this week to develop my character?

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