

# Being brave for Jesus

Parents / guardians are advised to read through this magazine to ensure that it will be suitable for their child. This magazine can be used in conjunction with the children's resource in the Suffering Church Action Week Inspiration Pack



## Kyrgyzstan: Jazgul's story

Jazgul was so excited to read her new magazine. It was full of puzzles, stories and pictures, and best of all, she could read about Jesus and how much He loves us. Reading the magazine was a special treat, because it can be difficult to find magazines and books about Jesus in Kyrgyzstan. Sometimes adults there get into trouble with the police if they read them.



Jazgul felt so happy after reading her magazine that she wanted to share it with all her friends. So she took some more copies with her to school to give to the children in her class.



But before she could give them out, her teacher stopped her. The teacher was very angry. She told Jazgul off and even threw a copy of the magazine in her face.

At first, Jazgul was frightened. She did not understand why the teacher had been so angry with her for wanting to tell other people about Jesus. But when she got home after school, she calmed down.



As she thought about it, she realised that she had suffered for Jesus and that He had been with her the whole time. When Jazgul realised this, she was full of joy and happiness and felt that Jesus was very close to her. All of her fear was gone.



**Jazgul is very brave.** Even though life is sometimes difficult because she is a Christian, the difficulties have only made her happier to be a follower of Jesus. She is being courageous. To be **courageous** means to be brave and not to be afraid. We also do not have to be afraid. Jesus is always with us, and He gives us strength when we need it.

**Jazgul will be here to help you throughout the activities - look out for her!**

# Bible story: Bravery in the fire (Daniel 3)

**K**ing Nebuchadnezzar was a very proud king. He made a huge golden statue and set it up in Babylon. The statue was so big that it was as tall as fifteen men standing one on top of another! Then Nebuchadnezzar gathered everybody together and said:

“Everybody! Whenever you hear the sound of music, you must fall down and worship this statue. Anybody who doesn’t will immediately be thrown into a blazing hot fire!”

So the next time the music played, everybody fell down and worshipped the golden statue. Everybody, that is, except Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These three had come to Babylon when they were children, and although they worked for the king, they also believed in the one true God. They knew that it is silly to worship a statue made of gold, because it cannot hear you or care about you! They also knew that God does not want us to worship anybody or anything apart from Him.

But some men went to the king and accused Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They said:

“King Nebuchadnezzar! You said that everybody has to fall down and worship the golden statue whenever they hear the sound of music. But there are three men who do not worship the statue when music is playing. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego don’t pay any attention to you!”

This made King Nebuchadnezzar very, very angry with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He called for the three and said to them,

“Is this true? You haven’t been worshipping the statue I set up? I will give you one more chance. If you worship the statue when music is played, fine. But if not, you will be thrown straight away into the blazing hot fire. Then what god could rescue you?”

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were very bold, and they knew exactly what to say. They said,

“If we are thrown into the blazing hot fire, our God will be able to rescue us. But even if He chooses not to, we want you to know, your Majesty, that we will not worship the statue you have set up or serve your gods.”

This made the proud king even angrier. He was so furious that he ordered the fire to be heated up seven times hotter than usual, and told his strongest soldiers to tie Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego up and throw them in. The fire was so hot that it killed the soldiers who pushed the three into the fire.

But then King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement. He said, “Didn’t we throw only three men into the fire?” His friends said, “Yes, Your Majesty.” The king said, “But now I can see four men walking around in the fire, and one of them looks like a god!”

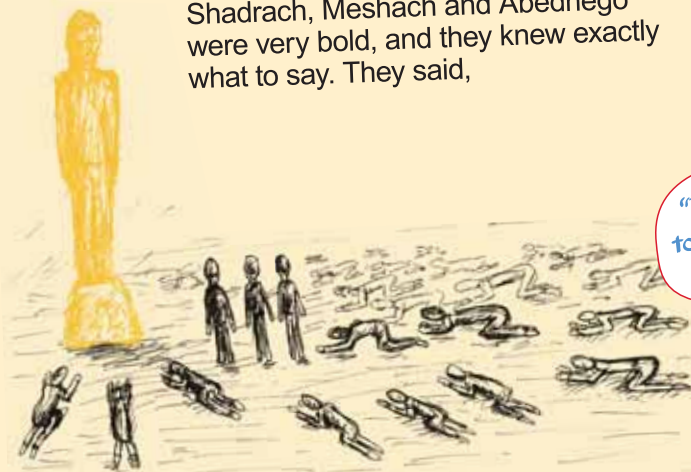
Then the king shouted:

“Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego walked out of the fire, and they weren’t hurt at all! Their hair wasn’t singed, and their clothes didn’t even smell like smoke. It was as if they had never been in the fire at all. God had sent an angelic messenger to save them from the fire, and this was the fourth person Nebuchadnezzar had seen.

Nebuchadnezzar was so amazed that he praised God and gave the three young men even better jobs. He could see now that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego’s God, who is the one true God, should truly be worshipped.

**Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were very brave.** They chose to obey God instead of the king, even though they knew they would be thrown into the fire. But they were right to be courageous, because God was with them the whole time. Their courage brought glory to God, which means that other people recognised how good and powerful he is. We can be courageous and stand up for God too, because even though He sometimes allows difficult things to happen to us, He never ever leaves us.



“It’s a good job we don’t have to rely on a statue to stay with us when we’re in trouble!”





# Unscramble the Bible verse!

Stories from the Bible teach us a lot about God. But in some places, Christians do not have Bibles in their own languages. Imagine if you tried to read the Bible in a language you did not understand. It would be very hard! It might be something like trying to understand the words below.

## Can you unscramble these encouraging words from the Bible?

**a) I nca od lla gshtin hothrug ihm woh srtegnthsen em**

Did you manage to unscramble it? Now try this one:

**b) oD nto eb iarfda, fro l ma twhi oyu**

This one is a little bit more difficult – can you do it? When you have unscrambled it, it will reveal something Jesus told us to do.

**c) vLeo eth dLro uryo dGo wiht lal uryo hetar nad wiht lal uryo solu nad wiht lal uryo rstethng nad wiht lal uryo nmid**

"Here's a clue - the first verse is about being strong!"

Answers at the bottom of the page

# Children of Courage Crossword

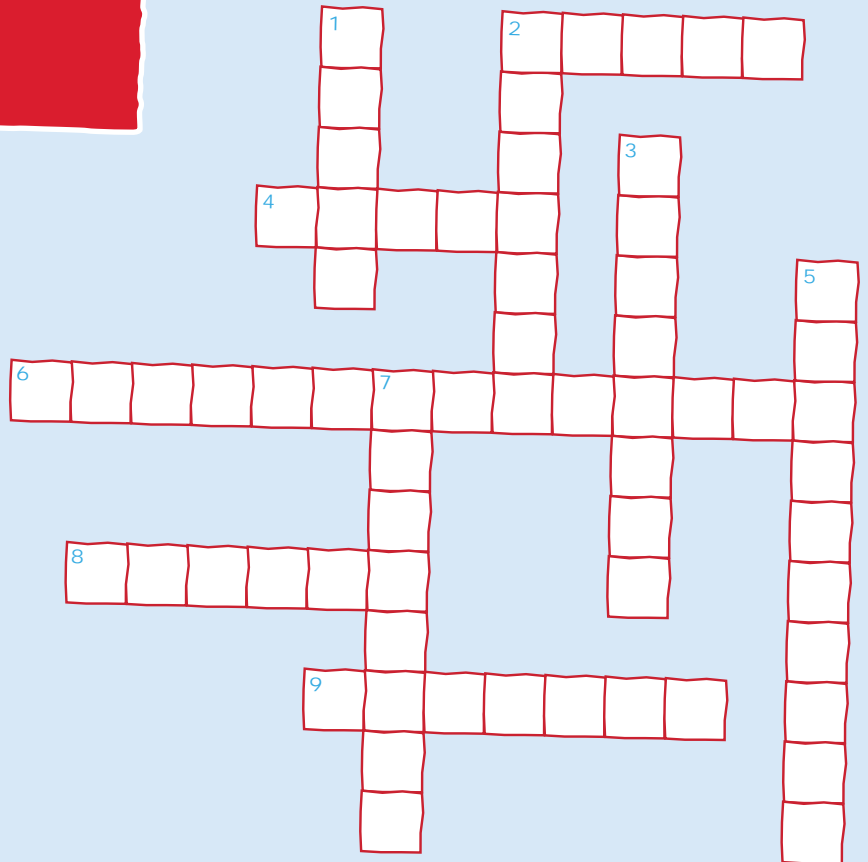
All the answers can be found somewhere in this magazine!

Across

2. If you stick with God even when things are hard, you are being .....
4. When other people recognise God's power, it brings ..... to him
6. The proud king who made the statue
8. If we trust in God, we do not need to be .....
9. Jazgul's ..... was very angry with her

Down

1. Christians in some countries do not have a ..... in their own language
2. The place where our three brave friends from the story lived
3. Jazgul got into trouble because of the ..... she wanted to give to her friends
5. The country that Jazgul comes from
7. Shadrach, Meshach and ..... stood up to the king



**Answers:**  
**a)** "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13, ESV) **b)** "Do not be afraid, for I am with you" (Isaiah 43:5, NIV)  
**c)** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" (Luke 10:27, NIV)

# You can help other brave children

## Let's pray



Sometimes we have to stand up for God: if somebody says something about Him that is not true, for example. This may not happen to us very often. But children in some countries have to be brave for Jesus every day. You can help children like Jazgul by praying for them.

**Pray that God will protect children who live in places where Christians have a difficult life**

**Ask God to give them the strength to be brave for Him when they need to be**

"Thank you for praying for children like me - God answers prayers!"



## Get crafty



**You can also help other children who are being brave for Jesus by saving your coins to send to them. How about making a label for a collection jar?**

Barnabas Fund can use your spare coins to help children from Christian families, like Jazgul, in many ways. We give them food if they are hungry, and help them to go to school when otherwise they would have to stay at home. We help to protect them from violence and give them magazines and Bibles to encourage them and help them to be brave.

**These are really easy to make.**

**You will need: Safety scissors, glue, sellotape, coloured pencils or pens**

### Jar Label Instructions:

Cut around the shape with safety scissors



Colour in and decorate the label - make it as bright as you like!



Glue or sellotape the label to a clean glass jar



Place the jar in your house or at your church, and collect your spare coins in it

When your jar is full, please ask a grown-up to help you to send the coins to other brave children. There is a special note for parents / guardians on the label.



**Note to parents / guardians:**  
Please visit [www.barnabasfund.org/other-ways-to-donate-and-support](http://www.barnabasfund.org/other-ways-to-donate-and-support) for easy ways to donate the contents of this jar



# Coins for Children of Courage

  
**barnabasfund**  
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