

CROSSPOINT™ YOUTH scripts

Issue 14

Synopsis: This adaptation of the famous Bible story in Daniel 3 adds an imaginary Ralph to the story. Ralph won't bow down to the king's image, but he does find a convenient way to "tie his shoes" at just the right moment, thereby blending in and avoiding scrutiny.

Topics: Courage, Fear, Peer Pressure, Boldness, School.

Time Requirements: 5 minutes

Characters:

Narrators 1 & 2: provide most of the lines, keep the story paced, and link the story to the audience.

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Ralph: good-natured, but "normal" guys.

Herald and Nebuchadnezzar: pompous, and exaggerated in their line delivery.

Other bystanders: Provide visual back-up.

User's Guide



Discussion Point:

Daniel and his friends were teenagers when they were shipped off to Babylon as servants of the king. How do you think they kept their faith strong in such a traumatic situation?



Author's Note:

Scene opens on Readers 1 & 2 on either side of the stage. They are book-ends to the scene and can be elevated by standing on a platform or chair.



Blocking:

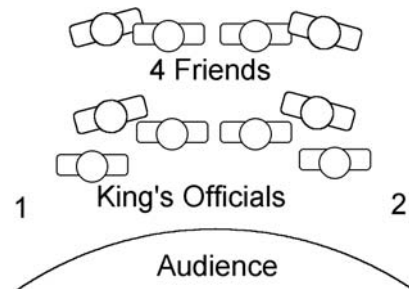
As the narrators begin, Nebuchadnezzar enters and mimes looking at a huge image which is out in the audience. He then gestures and 3-8 other people join him, all examining this imaginary gigantic structure. The 4 friends are in the pack but stay toward the back.



SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND RALPH

Props: Script folders, Chairs to stand on.

Stage Setup:



Script

0 minutes

1: And it came to pass that King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up in Babylon.

2: Then he summoned the Satraps,

1: Prefects,

2: Governors,

1: Advisers,

2: Treasurers,

1: Judges,

2: Magistrates,

1: And basically anybody else he could think of to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.

2: So the Satraps

1: Prefects,

2: Governors,

1: Advisers,

2: Treasurers,

1: Judges,

2: Magistrates,

1: And everybody else showed up for the big unveiling.



Discussion Point:

What images do people bow down to today? What do people worship at your school?



**SCRIPTURE LINK:
DEUT. 5:8-10**

YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF AN IDOL IN THE FORM OF ANYTHING IN HEAVEN ABOVE OR ON THE EARTH BENEATH OR IN THE WATERS BELOW. YOU SHALL NOT BOW DOWN TO THEM OR WORSHIP THEM; FOR I, THE LORD YOUR GOD, AM A JEALOUS GOD, PUNISHING THE CHILDREN FOR THE SIN OF THE FATHERS TO THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION OF THOSE WHO HATE ME, BUT SHOWING LOVE TO A THOUSAND GENERATIONS OF THOSE WHO LOVE ME AND KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.



Blocking: Herald enters and gestures for 2 to get down off the chair. 2 hesitates, but when Herald snaps his fingers, 2 steps down and Herald temporarily takes his place for the loud announcement. The king's officials immediately react in surprise, mumbling inaudibly among themselves. As soon as the narrators start up again, the king's officials all drop to the floor revealing the 4 friends still standing.



Blocking: The 4 friends carry on this conversation with the king's officials still bowing down.



Author's note: Whenever there's a long list of either officials, or musical instruments, they need to be read in rapid succession for a comic effect.



Blocking: Ralph begins strolling toward the front of the stage. As he proposes his idea, he actually bows down next to the king's officials to demonstrate.

2: Then the herald loudly proclaimed,

► Herald: This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.

1 minute

1: Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn,
2: Flute,
1: Zither,
2: Lyre,
1: Harp,
2: And all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations, and men of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

1: Which caused a bit of a problem for Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Ralph.

2: What? You never heard of Ralph?

1: Well, here's why.

► Meshach: This is a problem.

Abednego: A real problem.

Shadrach: A huge problem.

Ralph: Why?

1: Ralph asked.

2: Confused by their confusion.

Shadrach: Why?

1: Said Shadrach

Shadrach: Because unless we deny the LORD God and bow to that statue, we're toast.

Abednego: Like Marshmallows on a stick.

Ralph: Maybe not

2: Questioned Ralph.

Ralph: Let's not be unreasonable, here.

Meshach: Whatta ya mean?

► Ralph: Well let's just suppose that the music starts. The horn,
Abednego: Flute

Shadrach: Zither,
Meshach: Lyre,
Ralph: Harp,
Abednego: And pipes.

2 minutes

Ralph: And let's just say that when everybody bows down, we just happen to notice our shoes aren't tied.

1: Abednego shifted nervously as he listened.

Ralph: And so not wanting to trip over our shoelaces, we all happen to kneel down and tie our shoes while the music goes. We blend in, and nobody's the wiser.

Shadrach: God's the wiser.

Ralph: God? He's the least of our worries! God knows there's nothing to this statue! It's a big rock! We're not worshipping it, we're just...blending in.

Meshach: I don't know. I don't like it.

Ralph: Oh, c'mon! God knows we're just tying our shoes. Can we help it if other people falsely conclude we're worshipping?

1: So the 4 of them thought about it.

2: And thought.

1: And thought.

2: And while they were thinking, they heard a horn.

1: and then a flute,

2: a zither,

1: Lyre,

2: Harp,

1: Pipes,

2: and all kinds of music.

1: And Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood firm and tall as thousands around them bowed down.


2: And Ralph... tied his shoes.

3 minutes

1: Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and they were brought before the king,

2: And Nebuchadnezzar said to them,

Nebuchadnezzar: Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now be reasonable. When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall

Author's Note:  Don't worry about elaborate costumes for this. Simple solid colors work fine, or team T-shirts, or all black.

Blocking: At this point, Ralph, who's been bowing down, jumps up to contest Shadrach's point.



Blocking: All four stand there scratching their heads/chins as they think. Then they react as if they're hearing the music start. At that same time, the king's officials, who have been frozen in their bowing, begin bowing up & down. Ralph hesitates for a moment, looks at his friends who are standing tall, the others bowing, shrugs his shoulders and ties his shoes just as Nebuchadnezzar re-enters. The king's officials then stand, grab the 3 friends by their collars, and drag them toward the front of the stage where Nebuchadnezzar turns to address them. They are facing each other so the audience gets a side view, both of the king and the 3. The officials then stand back to watch.



Discussion Point: Do you think Ralph has a point? Doesn't God know that it's only a statue? Would he really care?



SCRIPTURE LINK:
ROMANS 1: 16

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL, BECAUSE IT IS THE POWER OF GOD FOR THE SALVATION OF EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES: FIRST FOR THE JEW, THEN FOR THE GENTILE.



Discussion Point: Have you ever been to ashamed to stand up for your faith? What did it feel like?

down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not, well, I'm feeling a bit chilly. I think we need to turn the heat up. But what could we use for fuel? Oh, wait. The Hebrews slaves! We could use you for fuel to take the chill off the air!

1: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king,

Shadrach: O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.

Meshach: If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand.

Abednego: But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not tie our shoes- I mean, not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.

4 minutes

1: So you know the rest of the story.

2: Not only did Shadrach and company survive the furnace, but they caused the name of God to be highly praised in the foreign country where they lived, and ended up with nice little promotions as well.

1: And Ralph?

2: Ralph went on to open his own store on E-Bay, selling miniature statues of Nebuchadnezzar's golden image.


1: As well as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego action figures, complete with real Smoking Fiery Furnace.


2: Batteries sold separately.


1: And every morning when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego bowed down before the Lord God, the Maker of heaven and earth...

2: Ralph bowed down... and tied his shoes.

Lights Out.

 **Discussion Point:** Do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were expecting to be saved? Are you more like they were, or like Ralph?

◀ **Blocking:** The 3 step forward one at a time to deliver the news.  Nebuchadnezzar is in shock. When Abednego finishes, all characters freeze in place.

◀ **Blocking:** Ralph mimes sitting at a computer, and then pats the still frozen 3 friends on the back approvingly. The 3 friends then snap back to life, bow to pray appropriately which Ralph ties his shoe one last time. 

Date Performed: _____

Actors Used: _____



Copyright 2002 by Crosspoint, Inc.
PO Box 13769, Fairlawn, OH 44334

Crosspoint Youth Scripts are published 6 times a year by Crosspoint, Inc.

Phone: 1-877-62-POINT (1-877-627-6468)

E-mail: info@crosspointscripts.com

Website: www.crosspointscripts.com

This material is intended for use within the subscriber church or ministry only. Active subscribers are granted permission to photocopy pages for multiple actors as needed. Material is not to be distributed to other churches, parachurch groups, traveling drama troupes, or other non-profit organization without the written consent of the publisher. Scripts are not to be used commercially, and usage rights do not extend to video, radio, television, websites, or film.