God Is With the Faithful

KEY VERSE: Nebuchadnezzar declared: “May the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be praised! He sent his messenger to rescue his servants who trusted him. They ignored the king’s order, sacrificing their bodies, because they wouldn’t serve or worship any god but their God.” — Daniel 3:28 (CEB)

Danger

❖ When have you been caught in a dangerous situation? What happened?  
❖ What did it feel like?  
❖ How was the situation resolved?

DANIEL 3:19-30 (NRSV)

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary,

20 and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire.

21 So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire.

22 Because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

23 But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, “Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?” They answered the king, “True, O king.”

25 He replied, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.”
Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.

And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them.

Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king’s command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.”

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

ALTERNATE STORIES
• How might we think differently about the choices made by the three men if they had died in the fire? ___________________________

• Would it change the way we view our relationship with God? Why or why not? ___________________________

• Is it worth it to lose something important, even your life, for your faith?______________________________

• When we consider the story from this perspective, how does it change the way we think about the choices made by the other Israelites?

__________________________________________________________
FOR THEIR FAITH
Use an electronic device to look up the following link: https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/01/11/top-10-worst-countries-christian-persecution.

● Why are people in these countries being persecuted?

● In what ways are the people being persecuted?

● Are they being persecuted by other citizens or by the government?

● What is being done to support them?

● What do they say about their faith?

PRAYER AND SUPPORT

“God, we know you are with us, but help us to remember your presence always and to never be afraid. We also pray for you to be with others who are in danger and to give them support, protection, and peace. Amen.”