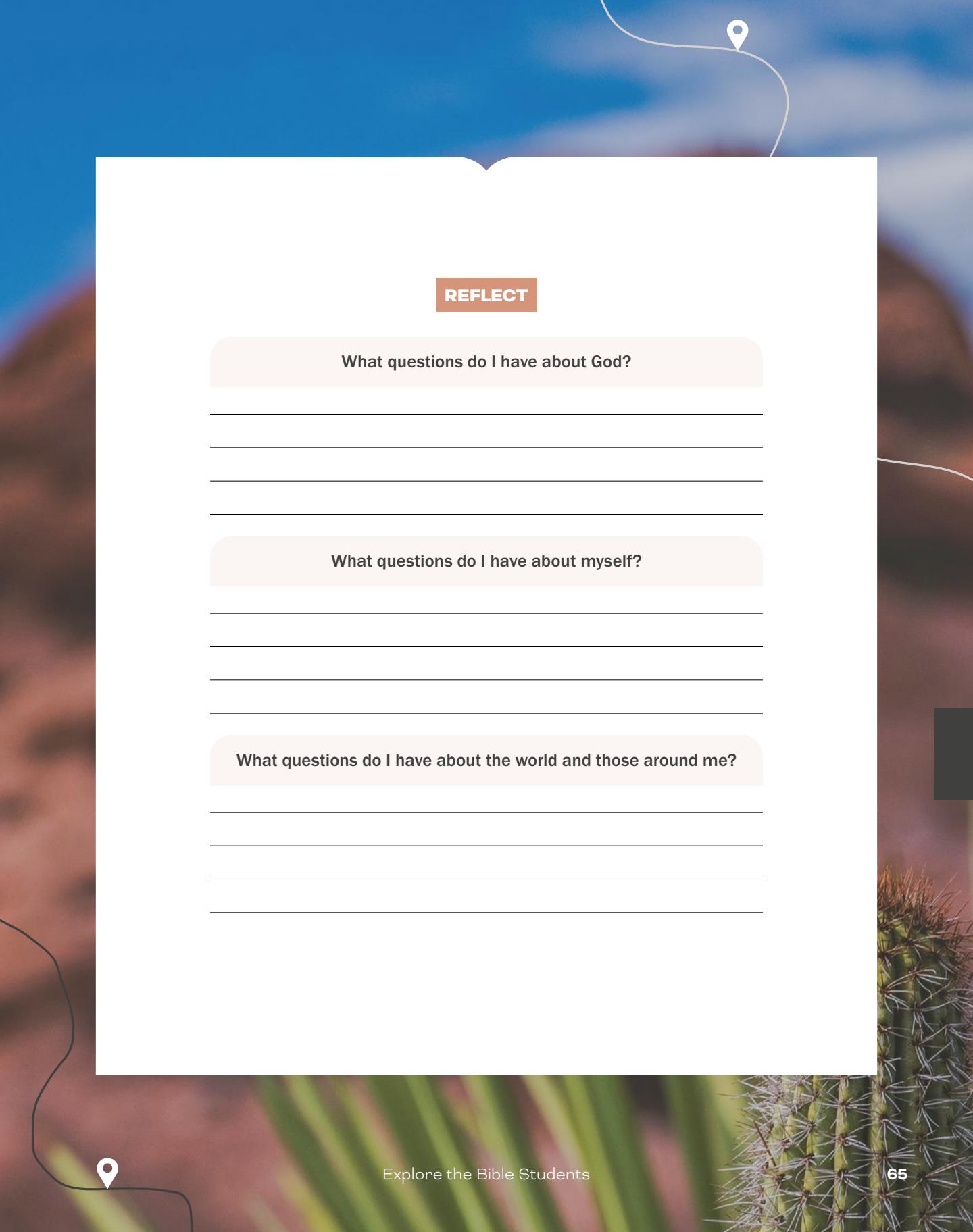


# Present in **THE FIRE**

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**CENTRAL TRUTH |** God's presence with us gives us courage to follow Him.

When we're faced with difficult situations, one of the first things we usually do is look for people to support us, such as friends, family, or mentors. We're not just looking for advice but also the comforting words or presence of someone who cares about us. Maybe you've felt the relief that comes from just sitting with a person like this. Sometimes words aren't even necessary. In this week's passage, Daniel's friends find themselves facing death at the hands of the Babylonian king. Their story doesn't end with their demise, however. God rescues them in a miraculous way. As we learn about this miracle and the faithfulness of these Hebrew men, we will learn how God's presence with us gives us courage to follow Him.



REFLECT

What questions do I have about God?

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What questions do I have about myself?

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What questions do I have about the world and those around me?

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### DANIEL 3:14-18

<sup>14</sup> Nebuchadnezzar asked them, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is it true that you don’t serve my gods or worship the gold statue I have set up? <sup>15</sup> Now if you’re ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music, fall down and worship the statue I made. But if you don’t worship it, you will immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire — and who is the god who can rescue you from my

power? ” <sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king, “Nebuchadnezzar, we don’t need to give you an answer to this question. <sup>17</sup> If the God we serve exists, then he can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and he can rescue us from the power of you, the king. <sup>18</sup> But even if he does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up.”

### DANIEL 3:19-25

<sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He gave orders to heat the furnace seven times more than was customary, <sup>20</sup> and he commanded some of the best soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>21</sup> So these men, in their trousers, robes, head coverings, and other clothes, were tied up and thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>22</sup> Since the king’s command was

so urgent and the furnace extremely hot, the raging flames killed those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. <sup>23</sup> And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm. He said to his advisers, “Didn’t we throw three men, bound, into the fire?” “Yes, of course, Your Majesty,” they replied to the king. <sup>25</sup> He exclaimed, “Look! I see four men, not tied, walking around in the fire unharmed; and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

### DANIEL 3:26-30

<sup>26</sup> Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and called, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you servants of the Most High God — come out! ” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire. <sup>27</sup> When the satraps, prefects, governors, and the king’s advisers gathered around, they saw that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men: not a hair of their heads was singed, their robes were unaffected, and there was no smell of fire on them. <sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, “Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent

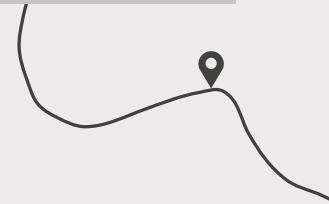
his angel and rescued his servants who trusted in him. They violated the king’s command and risked their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. <sup>29</sup> Therefore I issue a decree that anyone of any people, nation, or language who says anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be torn limb from limb and his house made a garbage dump. For there is no other god who is able to deliver like this.” <sup>30</sup> Then the king rewarded Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.



Refer to page 5 for a description of the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading.

Day 01

# JOSHUA 24:14-15



## 📍 READ & RESPOND

We make choices every day, but the biggest choice of all is who we're going to serve with our life. In today's passage, Joshua challenges the Israelites (and us) to choose the Lord. The Israelites saw the Lord's power and faithfulness as He brought them into the promised land. However, they were surrounded by pagan worship and heavily influenced by the nations that surround them. So they had a choice. They could choose to be faithful to the Lord or they could choose the pagan gods. Every day, you face a choice: Will you follow your desires, your friends, or the God who loves you? Joshua's message is simple: Choose now.

→ What does “fear the **LORD**” mean to you? Why are integrity and faithfulness important in serving God?

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↑ Why is it impossible to serve God while also trying to serve other “gods” or priorities?

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↓ What are some “gods” or influences today that might pull you away from serving God wholeheartedly?

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## 📍 MEMORIZE

Copy **Daniel 3:17-18** onto three to five note cards and tape them in places you see every day, like the bathroom mirror, your closet, or the back of your phone. Every time you see one of these cards, read it to yourself.

## 📍 PRAY

*Lord, I choose to serve You with all my heart. Give me the courage to turn away from anything that pulls me from You.*

## Day 02

# DANIEL 3:14-18

### 📍 READ & RESPOND

King Nebuchadnezzar presented Daniel's friends with a choice: to bow down to his idol or face death in a blazing furnace. This was a powerful moment of courage for these three friends, and they stood firm. They knew God could save them. But they also said, "even if he does not," they would not bow to the king's false idols. Their commitment to God was fixed, even if it meant facing death. When have you been tempted to give in to easier, but wrong, choices? True faith means standing firm for God, trusting in His power, and committing to obey Him, even if the outcome isn't what you hoped for.

→ How does having faith in God's ability to rescue you help in difficult situations?

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↓ Why do you think it's so hard to stand firm in your beliefs when you know there might be negative consequences?

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→ What's one specific area in your life where you might need to show this kind of "stand firm" faith this week?

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### 📍 MEMORIZE

Create a graphic of **Daniel 3:17-18** using a photo editor app. Set this graphic as your background or lock screen this week.

### 📍 PRAY

*Lord, help me to stand firm in my faith like these three friends. Give me the courage to obey You, no matter the pressure.*

Day 03

## DANIEL 3:19-25

## 📍 READ &amp; RESPOND

Picture this: a blazing furnace, intense heat, and a furious king demanding that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego bow down to his idol. They refused—and the consequences were terrifying. But then the king saw four men walking around, unbound, in the middle of the flames! Many believe this fourth man was Jesus Himself, stepping into the fire with them. Here's the takeaway: When you stand firm for God, you don't stand alone, even when the heat is on. Jesus is with you, protecting you through tough times. Your devotion to Him may even reveal God's power to others.

↓ What are some situations you've faced where you were pressured to compromise your beliefs?

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↑ What does the presence of the “fourth man” tell you about God's faithfulness when you face difficult trials?

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→ How can this passage encourage you when you're facing a tough situation?

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## 📍 MEMORIZE

Create a “mind map.” Write **Daniel 3:17-18** in the center of a piece of paper, and around it, write at least five key words, concepts, or images related to the verse.

## 📍 PRAY

*Lord Jesus, thank You for always being with me, especially when the heat is on. Give me the courage to always stand firm for You.*

Day 04

## DANIEL 3:26-30

### 📍 READ & RESPOND

God didn't just prevent the men from getting burned; He made it clear they were protected within the fire. This story is a powerful reminder that when you face tough situations because you choose to stand for God, He won't always take you out of the fire, but He promises to be with you in it. And when you come through, unharmed by the very things that threatened to destroy you, it's a powerful testimony to God's presence and power. The three mens' faith led to God being praised, and they were even promoted! Your integrity, rooted in trust in God, can make a huge difference in your life and the lives of those around you.

↑ What does God's protection in this passage communicate about His power and care for those who trust in Him?

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→ How can standing firm in your faith through a difficult situation become a powerful testimony to others around you?

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↪ Think about a current challenge you might be facing. How does this story encourage you to trust God to be with you, even if the situation itself isn't immediately removed?

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### 📍 MEMORIZE

Use a notes app on your phone and create a quick reference note for **Daniel 3:17-18**. Set yourself a reminder to look at it a couple of times each day.

### 📍 PRAY

*Lord, give me the courage to stand firm in my faith, trusting You are with me through every trial.*

Day 05

## ACTS 5:27-32

## 📍 READ &amp; RESPOND

Peter and the apostles stood before the most powerful religious council and clearly stated their priority. The high priest reminded them that they had been ordered to remain silent about Jesus. But Peter responded, “We must obey God rather than people.” Then, they boldly shared the gospel. When conflict arises between what God clearly says and what human authorities or peer pressure demand, our loyalty must be to God first. Choosing God’s way means standing firm even against popular opinion or rules that contradict His Word. It won’t always be easy, but you’re never alone—the Holy Spirit is with you.

← What kind of pressure do you think Peter and the apostles were feeling in this moment?

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→ What situations might arise in your life where you might have to choose between obeying God or obeying people?

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↑ How can having the Holy Spirit help you obey God, even when it’s difficult or scary?

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## 📍 MEMORIZE

Write **Daniel 3:17-18** five times on a piece of paper. Use a different color pen or marker for all of the nouns (the people, places, and things).

## 📍 PRAY

*Jesus, give me the courage of Peter and the apostles to obey You above all else. Strengthen me by Your Holy Spirit to stand firm in my faith, no matter the pressure.*