


PRESENT IN THE FIRE

CENTRAL TRUTH

In this week's passage, Daniel's friends find themselves facing death at the hands of the Babylonian king. But they aren't killed—they are rescued by God 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.**

KEY QUESTION


 **What can we learn about faith in God from the example of the three men?**

While the Hebrew men believe God can rescue them, they are also aware that He may choose not to do so. Even still—with their deaths being the outcome of this decision—they still refuse to serve the king's gods or worship the gold statue. The Lord is worthy of our trust because of who He is, not because of what He is able to accomplish on our behalf.

KEEP IN MIND

- I This passage reveals that obeying the Lord can be difficult—even costly. It's worth pointing out to students that the Hebrew men stood together, unified in their decision. As believers, we're invited to lean on the support of other believers as we strive to follow the Lord. We can find encouragement through our siblings in Christ.
- I The Hebrew men in this week's passage directly disobeyed the command of the Babylonian king. Their actions raise the question: Should believers ever disobey the government? Using this week's **Culture Note** to assist you, help students to understand that believers are called to obey earthly governments and pray for its leaders. However, we must always choose to obey God when forced between obeying Him and obeying earthly governments.

APPLICATION








 **Who in your life needs to be reminded of the Lord's presence? How can you remind her or him of this truth?**

THE WIN

FOR THE STUDENT: Help students understand that during difficult moments, we can rely on the Lord's presence and power in our lives. He is with us and will give us the courage to follow Him.

FOR THE LEADER: Remind students that your small group is a space where they can find encouragement to follow the Lord. Though obeying God may feel lonely at times, they can find support in one another as they do so.

7 ARROWS

-  What does this passage say?
-  What does this passage tell us about God?
-  What did this passage mean to its original audience?
-  How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
-  What does this passage tell us about the human heart?
-  How does this passage prompt me to pray?
-  What does this passage demand of me?