



**WEST  
SIDE  
CHURCH**

### Week 3

**Sermon Series:** Exiles: Daniel

**Sermon Title:** The God Who Saves Is with Us

**Sermon Text:** Daniel 3:1-30

**Study Handout Week of:** July 31, 2022

**Group Week of:** August 7, 2022

**Sermon Date:** August 14, 2022

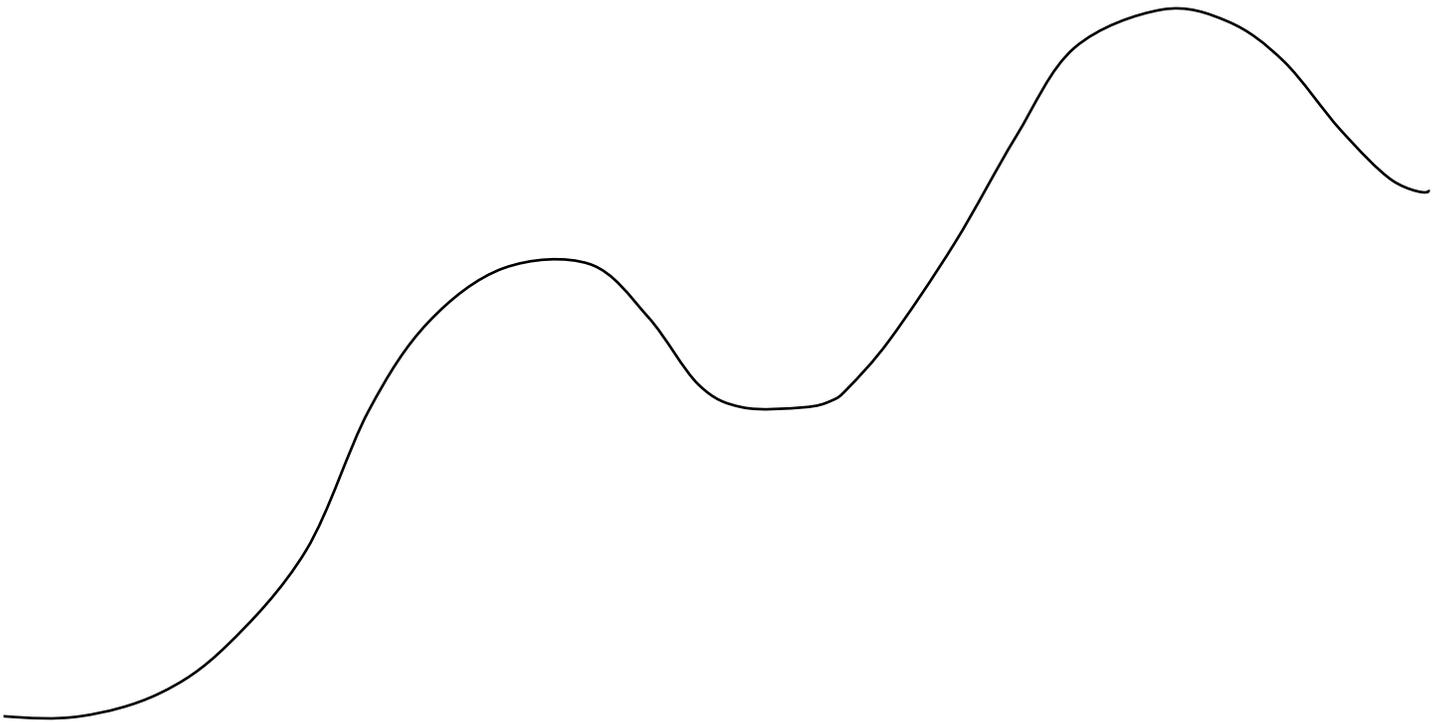
### Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

<b>Day 1</b>	The Fiery Trial – 1 Peter 4:12-19
<b>Day 2</b>	The Dream – Daniel 2:31-45
<b>Day 3</b>	Threats from Men – Isaiah 36:12-20
<b>Day 4</b>	Serving God – Joshua 24:14-27
<b>Day 5</b>	God's Deliverance – Romans 8:31-39

## The Text: Daniel 3:1-30

### Instructions

- 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to His words.
- 2) Read the passage.
- 3) Using the "Story Arc" below, insert the verses according to how you see the story begin, grow, climax, fall, and finish.
- 4) Write out the main lesson of the story.
- 5) Write out some of the other lessons along the way.



### Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the central lesson(s) in this story?
- 2) Why do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego live under the scorn of the astrologers of Babylon?
- 3) What is the purpose of the fourth person in the furnace?

## Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) 1 Peter 4:12-13 says, “<sup>12</sup>Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.” Although we know scriptures like this one, often the trial does indeed take us by surprise. This means that our hearts expect good times, even if we know in our minds that this won’t be the case. What causes you to get lulled into an expectation that trials shouldn’t come your way?
  
- 2) Nebuchadnezzar went from a dream about a statue of gold to making a statue of gold in his own image. This is a great example of the world twisting God’s word to bring glory to themselves. Reflect on America for a moment – where do you see Scripture twisted by people for the benefit, rather than for God’s glory?
  
- 3) When the music plays, everyone is supposed to worship the idol. The fact that everyone does it, and does it without question, makes it hard to go against the stream. What are some ways that the worship of idols is the societal expectation? Do you see Christians unwittingly worship the idols as well?
  
- 4) When the king threatens to kill these three men, they say, “<sup>16</sup>we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup>If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from your Majesty’s hand. <sup>18</sup>But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” This great statement is full of powerful truths. Which of these is most meaningful to you and why?
  
- 5) The king asks the three, “what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?” (v15). The three men know that God is always able to save, but they also know that He may not always choose to save. Does this make God less loving? Does it make God harder for you to follow? Share your thoughts on this truth.
  
- 6) The Exile should always expect the fiery trial. Sometimes this comes to us in persecution for our faith. But remember that Abraham’s faith was tested in another way. How can you live ready for tests of faith? What is required to be strong and ready when the test comes?