

# Where Is God When We Hurt?

## Session 8 ~ When Forced to Choose

### *Daniel 3*

The pressure to follow popular opinions mounts daily. How should believers respond when we must choose between standing up for our beliefs and fitting in with the crowd? Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, chose courage over fear.

Fear is a \_\_\_\_\_. Courage is a \_\_\_\_\_.

An overriding theme in *Daniel* is God's sovereignty. God reveals his \_\_\_\_\_ in the second chapter and his \_\_\_\_\_ in the third of the book.

Although Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream revealed that his kingdom would end, the king erected a gold image and required his subjects to worship. Despite the threat of death, three Jewish captives refused.

What excuses could they have offered instead?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

When and how have you justified your silence or surrender?

Every choice matters because every choice changes us, eventually determining our destiny.

When called before the king, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego resisted Nebuchadnezzar's demand, declaring their determination to remain faithful even if God didn't save them.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't choose \_\_\_\_\_. They chose \_\_\_\_\_.

God's greatest gift to us isn't his \_\_\_\_\_ from difficulty but his \_\_\_\_\_ with us in difficulty.

When we're forced to choose, we need:

- \_\_\_\_\_ what's right.
- \_\_\_\_\_ what's right.
- \_\_\_\_\_ what's right.

The same power that delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is available to us.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Does faithfulness to God guarantee a peaceful and prosperous life? Why or why not?
2. Explain the significance of the fourth image in the fire.
3. When have you been forced to choose between standing up for your faith and fitting in with the crowd? How did you respond?
4. Describe a situation in which you want to demonstrate courageous faithfulness. How can your group pray for you?