



UNIONTOWN  
BIBLE CHURCH

**Sermon Guide**  
**August 17: Daniel 3**

**What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?**

**Key Takeaway:**

1. God can deliver us, but even if He doesn't, we should still trust Him because it's His story, not ours.
2. Real trust isn't just believing God can save you; it's believing He's still good even if He allows your worst fear to become reality.
3. Peace is not the absence of trouble; it's the presence of God.
4. Our faith is tested not just in big moments, but in daily choices to stand firm when pressured to compromise.

**Family Discussion Questions:**

Tips for Leading the Conversation: Use "I wonder..." which invite kids to explore ideas through imagination and open-ended questions. Encourage them to draw their thoughts, act out a part of the story, or share something from their own. Mix story questions ("what happened?") with personal application ("what does that mean for you?")

1. **How does the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego help us understand faith when things are hard?** Have you ever had to do the right thing, even when it was scary or hard? What helped you be brave?
2. **The three friends trusted God, even if He didn't save them.** How can we learn to trust God like that? What does it mean to trust God, even when things don't go our way? Can you think of a time you had to do that?
3. **How can we stand up for what we believe without being mean to others?** Is it possible to be kind and loving while still doing what's right? How?
4. **How can friends or church help us when it's hard to do the right thing?** Who helps you when you feel pressure to do the wrong thing? How can we help others?

5. **In the fire, someone like Jesus was with the three friends. What does that tell us about God?** What does it mean that Jesus is always with us, even when life is scary or hard?

#### Discussion Questions:

1. **God can, but even if he doesn't, I'll still trust him because it's his story, not mine.** How do you find this concept challenging or comforting in your own life?
2. Share a time when you faced pressure to compromise your faith or values. How did you respond, and what did you learn from that experience?
3. How does the idea that "peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God" change your perspective on difficulties you're currently facing?
4. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't have a promise from God about what would happen. How can we cultivate faith that stands firm even without specific promises or guarantees?
5. In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to "stand" rather than "bow" to cultural or social pressures?
6. How does the image of Jesus in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego impact your view of God's presence in your own struggles?

#### Practical Applications:

1. Identify one area in your life where you're struggling to trust God. Commit to praying about it daily this week, focusing on God's character rather than specific outcomes.
2. Write down your own "God can, but even if He doesn't..." statement. Share it with a trusted friend or your small group for accountability and encouragement.
3. Practice being more aware of God's presence this week. Set reminders to pause and acknowledge God's presence with you throughout your day, especially in challenging moments.

4. Reflect on a past difficulty where you now see how God was present or working. Share that testimony with someone who needs encouragement.
5. Choose one situation this week where you might be tempted to "bow" to pressure. Make a conscious decision to "stand firm" instead, and share the experience with your group next time.