

4.13 The Fiery Furnace

Unit 3: Promise of Hope

Daniel 3:1-30

Nov 19 & 23

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

The Point & Call Back:
God Brings Hope

Our theme this unit is a promise – God’s Presence Brings Life. Through the stories of the fiery furnace and Isaiah’s prophecy of abundant life, we continue to see God present in the history of God’s people as we move through the season of Advent and into Christmas.

STORY SUMMARY: The Fiery Furnace

During a time when kings dictated who their subjects worshipped and Jews were held in captivity, all of Babylon was required to worship a golden statue. However, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worshipped God alone. These three young Jews, who were in service to the king, obeyed the First Commandment and worshipped only God, which put them in grave danger. This required an incredible amount of trust in God’s promises. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God to love and care for them. By following through on the actions they knew were right, these three men put their lives in danger. They were thrown into a furnace turned up to seven times its normal levels of heat, yet they did not give in to the command of the king. God protected and cared for God’s people, and God’s presence brought life for the three men. In this story found in the Book of Daniel, we find yet another example of God keeping God’s promises. God was in control and God delivered God’s faithful people.

THE POINT: God will be with us even in the worst of times.

There are times when we feel as if we have been plunged into a fiery furnace. It seems as if we are threatened and in difficult situations with no way out. Our natural tendency may be to try to fight our own way out or simply to just give up. Even in these challenging times, God promises to be with us and to protect us, just as God has been with God’s people and protected them throughout time.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS: Understanding Visions in the Bible

The Book of Daniel includes some narratives like today’s text, as well as some visions. Visions in the Bible can be difficult to understand, particularly for those outside of the intended audience. They use figurative language to describe God’s ultimate victory over evil and death, often addressing difficult circumstances in the author’s present. Visions are intended to provide hope that God is present, that our suffering has meaning, and that God will prevail.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Fellowship

Christian fellowship is a concept students learn by being part of a faith community and watching how people help one another in times of difficulty. Students will see how caring for God’s people is a way of experiencing fellowship.

(S&T)

Hope Youth Volunteers

We see Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in a sticky situation. They were faced with an impossible situation. It's wonderful to know that we serve a God that loves to work in impossible situations! He didn't prevent the fire but walk with them through it. He gave them hope and a future. We can be encouraged when we get in impossible situations that God will be with us too! Because Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were obedient to God many believed. How can we model that obedience to God in our service to Hope Youth?

Blessings

The Youth Team