

## Introduction

At the present time, believers all over the world have an amazing opportunity. In fact, unlike most points in history, pretty much every believer has the exact same opportunity. Amongst our other unique life challenges, most of the world is dealing with coronavirus strain COVID-19. This could be a blessing wearing a stupid, ugly mask. All across the globe, nearly everyone has had to consider whether they think they or their loved ones are at risk. They've had to consider how this will effect their future financial, pantry and bathroom situations!

Whether you're discussing this directly with your children or not, I'm sure they can sense something different in the world. Even at the grocery store my children had questions! If you're choosing to talk about COVID-19 with you're young ones or if you've decided not to, this is a great time to remind them of some of the enormous challenges God's people have been through and how he was with them every step of the way! Depending on your children's ages, stages and spiritual maturity, you can also discuss the different ways deliverance might look. For instance, God delivered his servants in the book of Daniel by protecting them from danger, but he was glorified in the lives of the New Testament believers by strengthening them to go through their suffering and death with grace and peace. Here are a couple of coloring options for different ages to help start or go along with your conversations. Maybe they could even begin a new habit in your daily rhythm of sitting and discussing God's faithfulness during this unusual time. We hope to add more in the near future.

## **Daniel 6 (The Lion's Den)**

Start by reading, telling or helping your children to recall the story of Daniel's faithfulness to prayer and the consequences he faced. If this begins an organic conversation, go with it! Move with what the Spirit is doing in your children's hearts. If not, maybe ask how they would feel if they were in Daniel's situation? Do they think they would have the courage to continue praying?

At this point, some of my children give a big bold "yes!" while others are still stuck on the word lion and I can see their little hearts heading down a path of fear. It's so important to stop that habit in its tracks! Here is the time to ask questions that lead them down a path of trusting the Lord. Here are some examples of questions that might be appropriate: Is there anything bigger and stronger than God? Who made that lion? (Or any other scary critter!) If he can create it and you, then he can take care of you both right?!

Did you know that in the book of Job, God tells him that without his sovereign hand, the young lions wouldn't have food? The mother lions might go out and catch their prey, but it's God who provides it for them! Did you know he loves you even more? Could Daniel have wrestled those lions and tied their mouths shut himself? So it was 100% God who kept him safe right? Do you think God can do that for you?

Let your conversation come to a natural end and maybe just enjoy a few moments coloring with your child(ren). I would encourage you to pray with them, and specifically that they would trust in God's strength instead of their own and that their faith would grow more everyday!

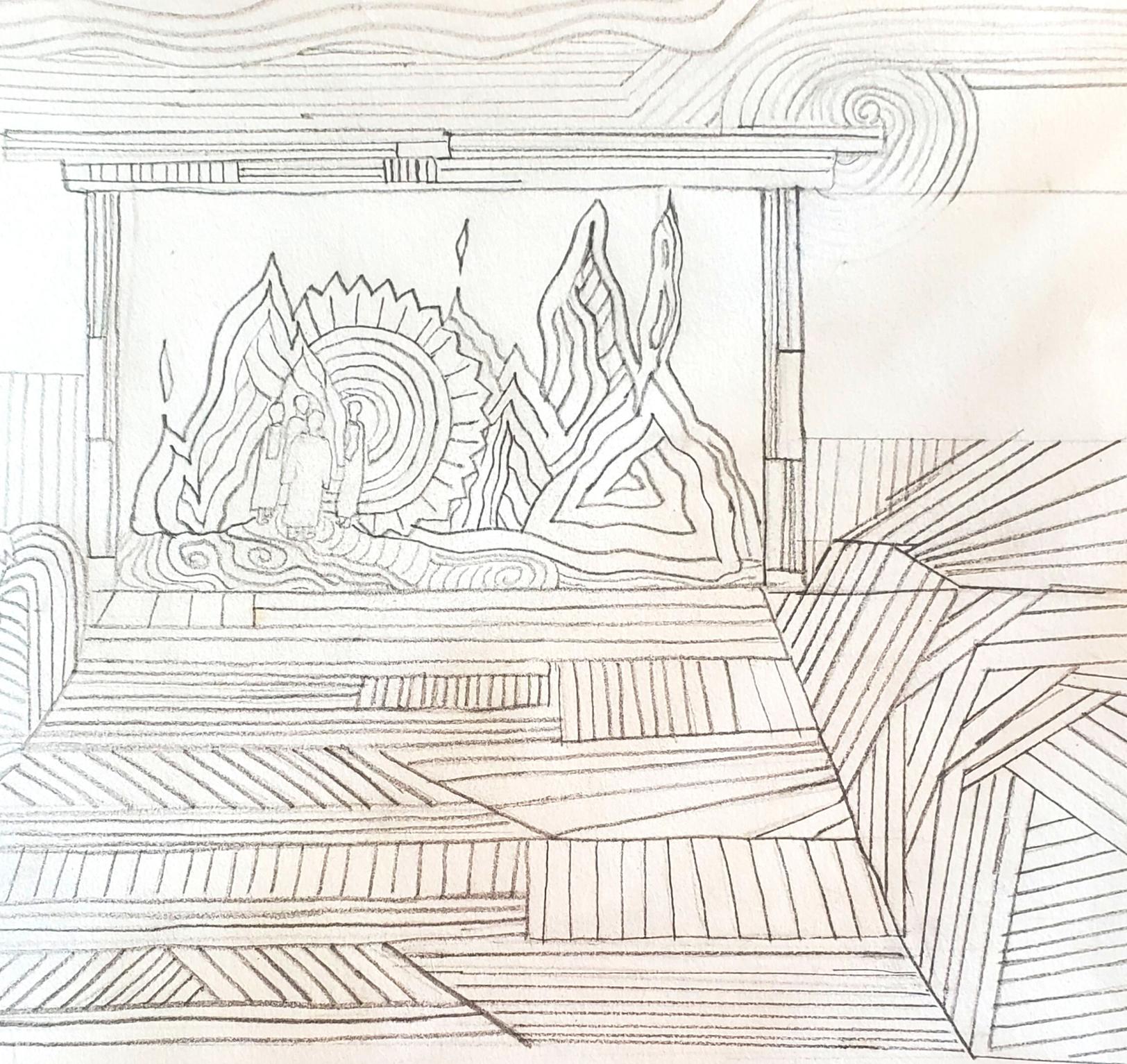
### **Daniel 3 (The Fiery Furnace)**

Begin by reading, telling or helping you children to recall for you the passage of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace.

Again, if the Lord leads your conversation in a certain direction - go with that! If you need a little help you get the gears turning, here are some suggestions. Sometimes, if you sit a color and let there be silence, your child will open the door for conversation and you'll be able to work more effectively in cooperation with the Lord!

Why did Nebuchadnezzar throw them into the furnace? What would you have done if you were in their shoes? Who do you think is more powerful, the earthly king or the Creator? In what ways is he more powerful than kings or presidents or even people who want to hurt others? So really, if they had to choose who was the biggest and most powerful one, the person who was the most worth being afraid of, who would that be? Do we have to come to him scared? No, we can come to him as our loving Father; what a gift?!

Allow your conversation to run its course and maybe pray with your child. Also offer for them to pray and tell how if they're afraid of things, ask him to help them believe and thank him for being a big, strong, good Father.



God protected the men in the furnace  
and sent his Messenger to be  
with them.

God protected Daniel in  
the face of great danger.

