



GPS Friends and Family –

I hope you are well. It looks like that we will be missing our physical meeting on Tuesday evenings, but we are planning to continue to drop our materials by and try and get out some videos that all kids (and families) could watch and do together!

We pray for your health. We pray for the children's safety during the time off and ability to do their schoolwork. We pray that our schedules can be adjusted, and employers can work with employees during this time. We pray that God takes the virus away, if it be His Will, or teach us what we need to be doing during this time and provide us with strength, peace and calm to endure. We pray for those who are sick, that they may recover. We pray for those in leadership, for wisdom and good decision making. Most of all, we pray for those who don't know Christ as the only real Savior in their life – that God opens their eyes and helps them see sin and their separation from a holy God. Our hearts know the failures, sickness and sin around us is not how it should be. We pray for those who don't know that Christ died and was raised to pay for their sins become aware and then respond by repenting of their sin, asking God for forgiveness, then turn from old ways and begin living a life for Christ.

We would love to walk with everyone going through this!

**Please share your needs and let us know how we can pray and help!**

I can be reached (via phone or text) at 864-275-1658 and the church office at 864-232-7312.

**NOTE: Please text the number above to make sure I have your current phone number and email address (as well as your kids if they have their own).**

Our lesson this week is great for our time in the world. We have been talking about Daniel, from the Bible, and his faithful friends. This week, we learn about how his friends were "tested" or "challenged" by a hard time – a threat of being thrown into a fire, if they didn't worship a worldly king. They trusted in God. We might not have the fear from a king, but our world has a fear of the COVID virus. We may have a fear from not being able to get toilet paper or other things. We may can use our current situation to grow our faith and trust that God is still in control and He works these things out for His good – we need to make sure we are trusting Him with our life and then spend each day becoming more like Him!

## **Bible Lesson: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Daniel's Friends)**

Nebuchadnezzar built a tall gold statue and issued a new law: "When you hear music, you are to fall down and worship the statue." The penalty for defying this law was severe. "Whoever does not fall down, and worship will immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire." (Daniel 3:6)

So, when the music played, all the people bowed down and worshiped the gold statue. Well, almost everyone. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down and worship the statue. They loved and worshiped the one true God. Only He was worthy of their worship.

The Book of Daniel says that the Chaldeans – a group of astrologers and dream interpreters – took this opportunity to go to the king and tell on Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The friends boldly declared that God had the power to save them, and even if He chose not to, they would not worship the king's statue.

Consider the possibilities. God could keep the friends from being thrown into the furnace. Or once in the furnace, God could keep them from being harmed. And if they perished, God would receive them into heaven. Their trust in God enabled them to stand firm even as they were tied up and thrown into the fire.

Then something miraculous happened. Nebuchadnezzar saw FOUR men in the fire! They were walking around, unharmed! The Lord not only rescued Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, He was with them. King Nebuchadnezzar praised God and issued a decree forbidding anyone to say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

On the cross, people mocked and made fun of Jesus: "He saved others; He cannot save Himself!" (Mark 15:31). Jesus was not physically unable to save Himself. He chose to do His Father's will. His love for sinners kept Him there. Jesus did not save Himself so that He could save others!

**Weekly Memorization Verse:**

**Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**