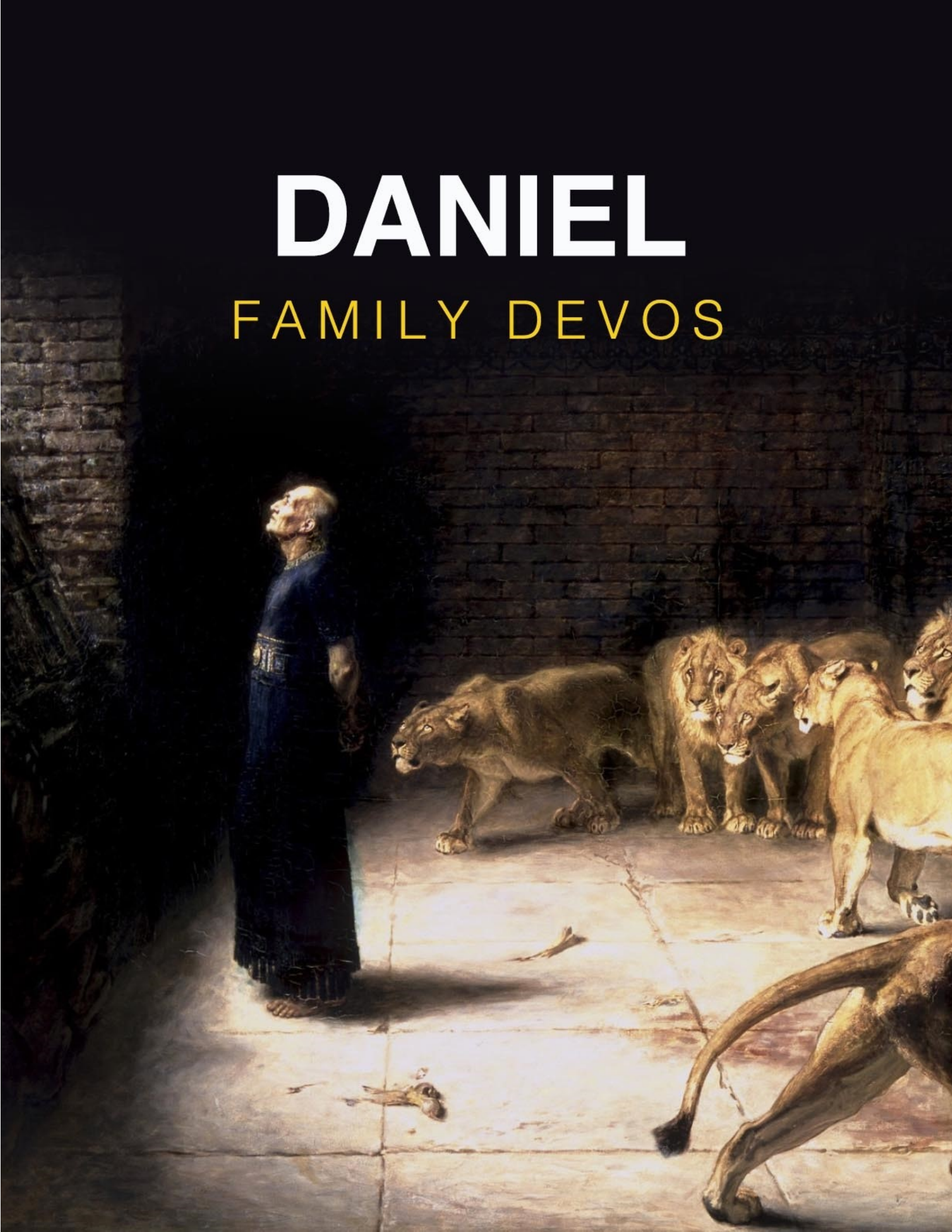


DANIEL

FAMILY DEVOS



With Us in the Trial

Scripture: Daniel 3:19-30

Memory Verse: Psalm 23:4

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”

For My Family:

As we saw in our last study, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar’s golden statue. They told the king, “We do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up,” in defiance of his direct command to bow down before it. In verse 19, we see the consequences of this decision.

True to his promise, Nebuchadnezzar, “full of fury,” had the furnace heated 7 times hotter than normal and had the three Israelites thrown inside. The fire was so hot that the soldiers who threw them in were burned and killed, but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego remained unharmed. Not only were they not burned, but the king and those with him saw that someone else had joined them in the fire, someone who was like “the Son of God.”

The Israelites in this passage did not know what God was going to do. Maybe they wondered if God would bring water up out of the ground and put out the fire before they could be thrown in, or maybe a great wind would come and blow the fire out, protecting them from the flames. God could have done any number of things to stop them from going through the trial, but instead He allowed them to be thrown into the furnace. The Lord did not prevent them from going through what must have been the scariest moment of their lives. Instead, He joined them in it. The Lord not only kept the boys from harm, but He stood with them in the midst of it.

Jesus promised us that during our lives, we will all go through difficult and troubling circumstances (John 16:33), but He also promised us that no matter what we go through, He will be with us. When we go through difficult times, we can remember the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They didn’t know if God would save them, but they knew that He could, and when the Lord didn’t prevent them from experiencing the trial, He met them wonderfully in the midst of it.

Jesus allowed the trial of the fiery furnace to happen because ultimately it would bring Him more glory and draw people to believe in Him. Verses 26-30 show Nebuchadnezzar praising God and commanding that no one speak badly about the Lord. He even said that there was not other god like our God, “who can deliver like this.” When we are going through difficult times, remember that God can use those for His glory and even use our trials to increase our faith and draw others to know Him.

Questions for Young Children:

Did God put out the fire so that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego wouldn't have to go through it? What did He do instead?

The king made the fire hotter than it normally was. Do you remember how much hotter?

What did Nebuchadnezzar do after Jesus saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Why didn't God simply put the fire out? Why did the three men have to go through the trial?

Has God ever taken a difficult time in your life and made something good out of it? What was it, and what did God do? (Parents, this is a good opportunity for you to share your own experiences.)