



FACES OF OUR FAITH

LEARNING FROM BOLD + UNTOLD STORIES

STUDY JOURNAL

OCTOBER 12 SERMON

SHADRACH, MESHACH
& ABEDNEDGO



sanctifiedart.org

There are many heroes of the faith, people we admire and wish to be. However, there are even more ordinary people of faith—those doing what they can with what they have to make a difference. We’ve selected 16 bold stories of those often overlooked in our biblical narratives. Using visual art and prompts for reflection, we hope to dig deep into the worlds of these characters, entering their stories with curiosity and openness to what they might teach us.

We have arranged the stories so that they have a narrative arc beginning with Genesis and the Hebrew stories, moving to the minor characters in the backdrop of Jesus’ birth and death, and concluding with the apostles and Christians who emerged in the years after the resurrection. We invite you to complete this journal at the pace and order that suits you. You may wish to ponder the reflections and prompts individually or with others. We have designed this journal so that it might be used as a personal devotional or as the curriculum for a group study series.

As we journey with these characters, may they remind us that we all play a role in shaping God’s story of redemption and grace. May they awaken us to the faces of our faith in our world today. May they encourage us to know that no action is ever too small to make a difference.

Artfully yours,

The Sanctified Art Creative Team

Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Sarah Are
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As you journey with the biblical characters in this series, we invite you to name the faces of your own faith and reflect on how they have impacted you. You may wish to name friends, family members, mentors, pastors, public figures, strangers—consider anyone and everyone who has made a lasting impact on your faith.

face of my faith:

impact_____

face of my faith:

impact_____



The Fire Inside | Hannah Garrity



FACES OF OUR FAITH

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read DANIEL 3

from the artist | HANNAH GARRITY

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego exemplified courage as they walked with the presence of God among the flames. Their trust in God overcame the human tendency to fear. This painting portrays the grandeur of God intersecting with the fearfulness of humanity. "Be not afraid" is a notable refrain in the bible. It speaks to the utmost importance of courage and the weighty influence of fear on our actions. In this image I tackle a meeting between God and fear. Each face presents a determined expression in the face of adversity. God's impervious and emboldening courage is represented by a landscape in the background. Panels of translucency hide God's fearlessness from us intermittently. The panels and open spaces represent the struggle with fear and fearlessness that we face as human beings. The faces of determination, faces strengthened by God's courage, emerge in the space where our view of God's strength is blocked. Here, our human struggle with fear is personified in the positive. Even when we cannot clearly see, God's courage is within us.



RESPOND

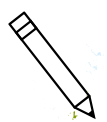
SHADRACH, MESHACH & ABEDNEDGO

look

Take a few moments to gaze upon the artwork. Sit still in quiet meditation as you observe the visual qualities of what you see: color, line, texture, movement, shape, form. Now take a deeper look. What parts of the image are your eyes most drawn to? What parts of the image did you overlook? Now engage your imagination. If you were to place yourself in this scene, where would you be and how would you interact with what surrounds you?

reflect

- What are the consequences of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's resistance? What occurs as a result of them refusing to bow to the King's statue?
- What specific fears do you imagine Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego experiencing in this story?
- What symbols, figures, or objects are we tempted to worship or idolize today?



write

Contemplate how fear, perhaps one fear in particular, is present in your life right now. Reflect on how you might face this fear. How might it lose power over you?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

pray

In the cracks of our fear-filled lives, may Your courage take root. Amen.



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