

- 1 **Reflect on your life as a believer.** What kinds of “fiery trials” have you faced that tested your faithfulness to God? Have you encountered situations where you started to waver in your convictions?

 *What are some of the common temptations that come as the intensity of a circumstance increases?*

 *Consider Jesus' temptation in Matthew 4:8-10, where he modeled faithfulness. How does Christ's perfect, permanent faithfulness encourage you to repent where needed, and motivate you to remain faithful today?[1]*

- 2 **The fiery furnace in Daniel 3 killed some (v22), but freed others (v25).** The same flame brought judgment to some and refinement to others.

 *How are you tempted to see difficult circumstances incorrectly? Perhaps as God's vindictive judgment or in doubting His goodness?*

 *What would change if you viewed difficulty as God's means of refinement to prove the genuineness of your faith?*

 *What lessons can you learn for times of trial from 1 Peter 4:12-14?*

- 3 **Daniel's three friends were committed to fidelity even if God didn't deliver them (Dan 3:17-18).** For us today that might look like a person with cancer saying “God is able to deliver me, but if he doesn't, I'm going to continue trusting him.” Or, someone trying to get pregnant saying, “God is able to give us a baby, but if he doesn't, I'm not going to get bitter at him.” Someone in a tough job situation saying, “God can give me a new supervisor, or change this hostile work environment, but even if he doesn't, I'm going to continue working to please him.”

 *Use that sentence framework to think through what surrender to God's providence looks like in your life. “God is able to _____, but even if he doesn't, I'm going to _____.” Write two statements of your own below.*

- 4 **Idolatry is subtle and seductive.** It is subtle in the sense that it can be connected to a good thing. It's seductive in that it becomes bad when this potentially good thing is out of place, wrongly prioritized, or inappropriately used. You could say it like this, “When a good thing becomes an ultimate thing, it turns into an idolatrous thing.”

 *What kind of good things have you seen become idolatrous things for people?*

