

## The Power to Harm

Who or what has the power to harm us  
and the ones we love?

What powers or troubles threaten you today?  
And tomorrow?

Who or what can protect us?

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## Who is Able?

*Daniel 3*

[tiny.cc/cmchandouts](https://tiny.cc/cmchandouts)  
[bib.ly/Dan3.NIV](https://bib.ly/Dan3.NIV)



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## Key people in this story

- **King Nebuchadnezzar**
  - Supreme ruler of the Babylonian empire, ~600 BC
- He just had a dream about a statue (chapter 2)
  - Gold, silver, bronze, iron, baked clay
  - Kingdom after kingdom, then replaced by God's kingdom
- **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**
  - Young Jewish men who were captured and then forced into service for the king

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## Daniel 3

**1-7: The king commanded everyone to worship the statue he set up—and everyone did!**

**8-23:** • The threat of death by fire was convincing!

**24-27:**

**28-30:**

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### Daniel 3

1-7: The king commanded everyone to worship the statue he set up—and everyone did!

**8-23: Conflict between the king and the God of the Hebrews**

- King

24-27: – “What god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”  
– In other words: serve me, and I’ll protect you

28-30: • Jewish men

- “The God we serve is able to deliver us, and he will”
- “Even if he does not”, we are still **His** servants

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### Daniel 3

1-7: The king commanded everyone to worship the statue he set up—and everyone did!

8-23: Conflict between the king and the God of the Hebrews

**24-27: God delivered His servants THROUGH the flames**

- The king realized these 3 men were God’s servants,

28-30: not his

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## God's promise...

“When you pass through the waters,  
**I will be with you;**  
 and when you pass through the rivers,  
 they will not sweep over you.  
**When you walk through the fire,**  
**you will not be burned;**  
**the flames will not set you ablaze.”**

*Isaiah 43:2*

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## Daniel 3

1-7: The king commanded everyone to worship the statue he set up—and everyone did!

8-23: Conflict between the king and the God of the Hebrews

24-27: God delivered His servants **THROUGH** the flames

**28-30: The king bowed to the God of the Hebrews**

- “They were willing to give up their lives rather than serve any god except their own God”
- “No other God can save in this way”

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“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the **children of God**. The Spirit you received **does not make you slaves**, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption to sonship**. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that **we are God’s children.**”

*Romans 8:14-16*

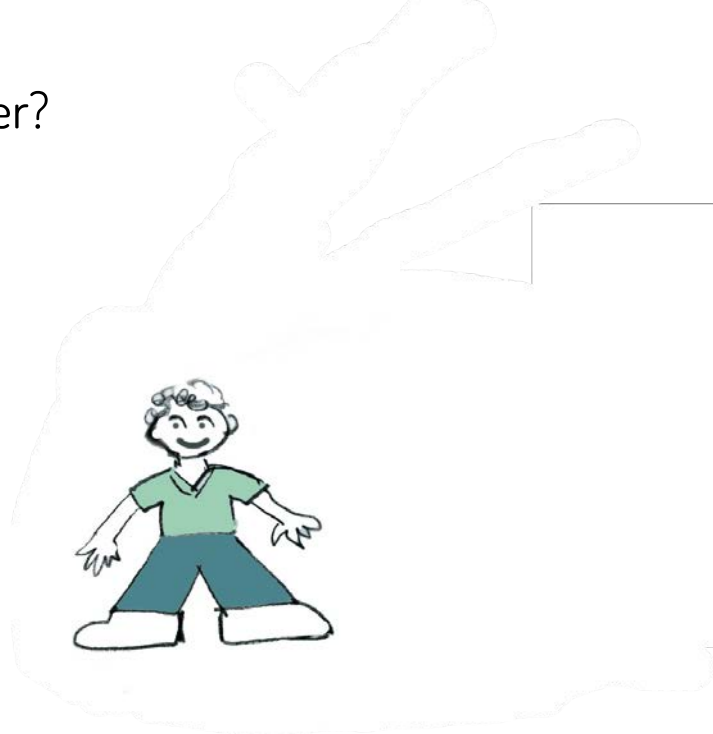
9

### The Big Idea

**God rescues His children in Christ  
from or through  
every crisis and threat and power**

10

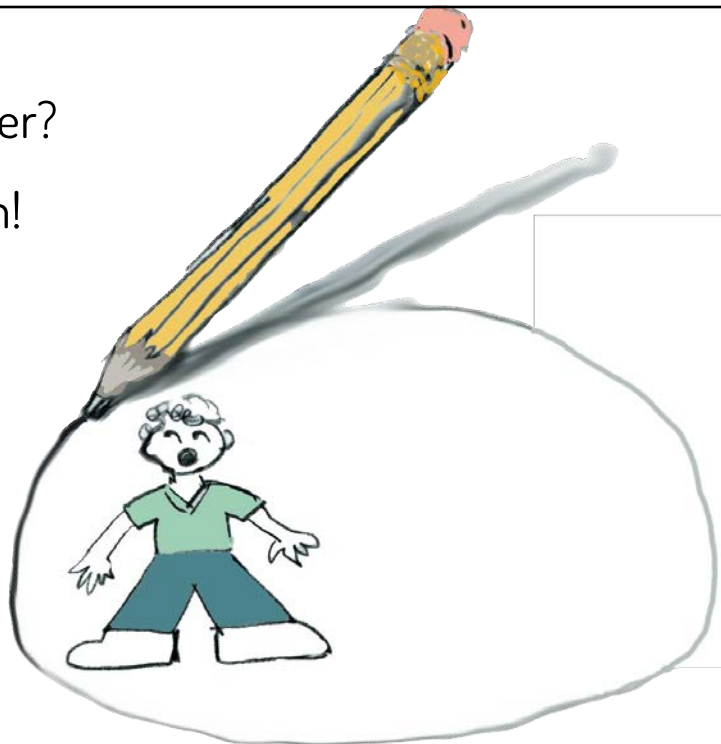
How can you trap  
a 2-dimensional character?



11

How can you trap  
a 2-dimensional character?

Draw a circle around him!



12

How can you trap  
a 2-dimensional character?

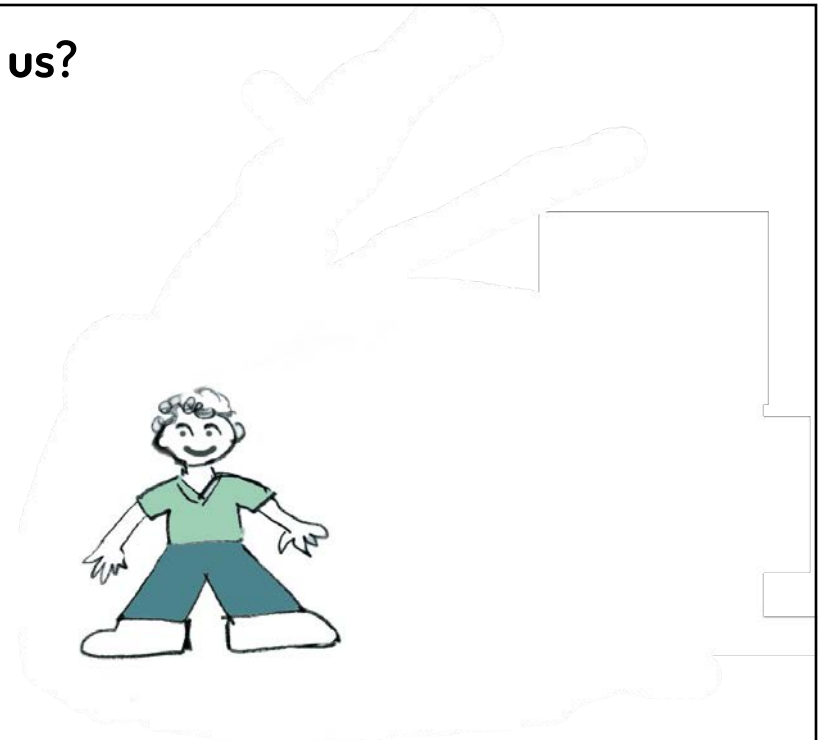
Draw a circle around him!

A circle does nothing to stop  
a 3-dimensional character!



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**What traps people like us?**



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## What traps people like us?

Personal:

- Lack of ability or knowledge
- Weaknesses
- Failures or bad choices

Natural powers

Human powers

Spiritual powers

→ **sin & death**



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“What god will be able to rescue us  
from these troubles?”



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“What god will be able to rescue us  
from these troubles?”

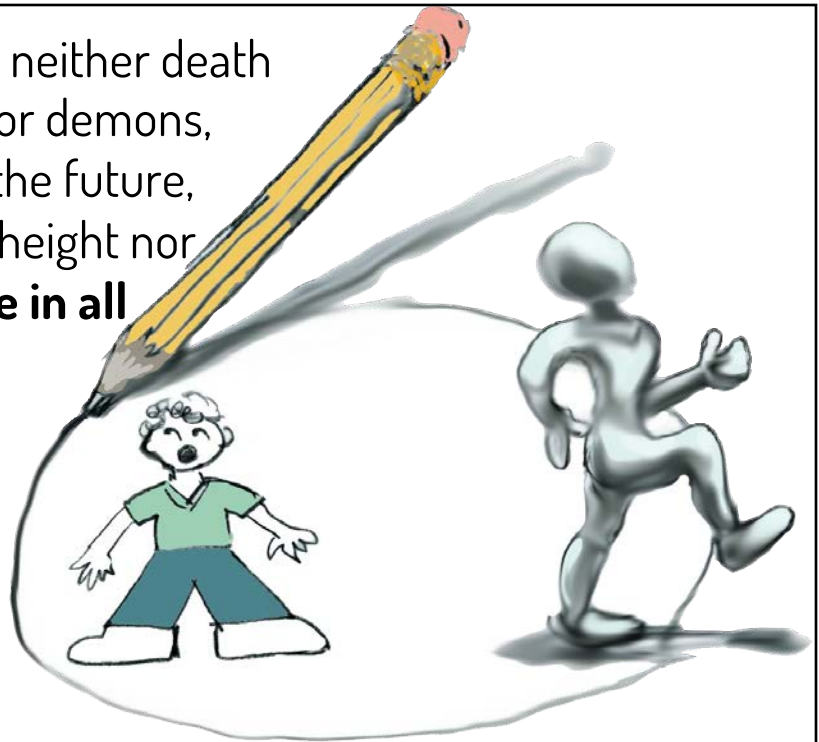
Jesus Christ, who conquered  
sin and death



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“For I am convinced that neither death  
nor life, neither angels nor demons,  
neither the present nor the future,  
nor any powers, neither height nor  
depth, **nor anything else in all  
creation**, will be able to  
**separate us from the  
love of God that is in  
Christ Jesus our Lord.**”

*Romans 8:38*



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## The Big Idea

**God rescues His children in Christ  
from or through  
every crisis and threat and power**

Paul described: prison, beatings, shipwrecks, bandits, false believers,  
hard work, lack of sleep or food or clothing, concern for others

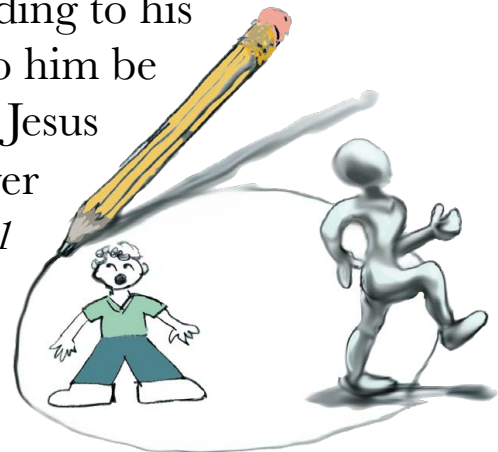
Our own weakness and temptations

Conflicts, spiritual attacks

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## What we know about God

- **God can do far more than we can imagine**
  - “Now to him who is **able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine**, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” *Ephesians 3:20-21*



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## What we know about God

- **God can do far more than we can imagine**
- **He does not withhold good from His children**
  - “What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all— how will he not also, along with him, **graciously give us all things?**” *Romans 8:31-32*
  - Whatever we don’t receive,  
He is working together for a greater (future) good

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## What we know about God

- **God can do far more than we can imagine**
- **He does not withhold good from His children**
- **His wisdom is vastly beyond our own**
  - “Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!**” *Romans 11:33*
  - So we trust Him even when we can’t understand His wisdom

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## The Big Idea

**God rescues His children in Christ  
from or through  
every crisis and threat and power**

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## Application

- **Worship the God who is greater than every other power**
  - Worshiping or trusting anything less is so foolish!
  - We bow to the Creator of life, the Judge of all creation, and the One who will make all things new
  - These 3 knew whom they served
- **Trust Him fully**
  - Where did they meet God?
  - We can trust Him even for the courage to follow Him
    - Trusting God in the Gulag

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“Such confidence we have through Christ before God. **Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.** He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

*2 Corinthians 3:4-6*

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### Entering the flames

- When the 3 friends were in the flames...
  - God was present with them in the flames
- Jesus entered the flames for us already
  - He died on the cross in our place
  - Then He rose again, victorious over sin and death
- Since our Savior conquered sin and death, nothing can harm us when we are with Him!
  - So He invites us to follow Him...

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