

July 19, 2020

Our Always-Faithful God

Daniel 3:19-30

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States, those in frontline jobs have worked tirelessly to serve, protect, and heal, despite the risks to their own health. Employees in hospitals, grocery stores, warehouses, and social services have put their lives at risk to continue serving the rest of us. These are uncertain and scary times for all of us. We find ourselves using reserves of courage we didn't know we had to perform simple, everyday tasks such as grocery shopping or going for check-ups.

The student book author writes, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego may not have known the outcome of their plight, but they did by faith know who held their future."¹ The God of the furnace is there to strengthen those who have faith. "Nebuchadnezzar declared, 'May the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be praised! He sent his messenger to rescue his servants who trusted him'" (Daniel 3:28).

Every day, essential workers walk bravely "into the furnace" so that we can have what we need. The John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award is presented annually to a person who has exhibited tremendous courage. "The award recognizes a public official (or officials) at the federal, state, or local level whose actions demonstrate the qualities of politically courageous leadership."² In the past, the award has gone to presidents, members of Congress, governors, and mayors. But 2020 is not a normal year in so many ways.

This year's Profile in Courage Award will be presented to several nominees who have exhibited "COVID Courage." The nominating committee is accepting applications until the end of August. If you would like to nominate someone you know personally or in your community who has shown incredible courage and selflessness during the past few months, go to <https://www.jfklibrary.org/events-and-awards/profile-in-courage-award/covid-courage>.

1. Who would you nominate for the Profile in Courage Award, and why?
2. In what ways have frontline heroes made a difference in your life since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic?
3. What frightens you about the current state of the pandemic? How can your faith help you overcome that fear?

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¹From *Adult Bible Studies*, Summer 2020, by Robert Gardner (Cokesbury, 2020); page 72.

²From [jfklibrary.org/events-and-awards/profile-in-courage-award/about-the-award](https://www.jfklibrary.org/events-and-awards/profile-in-courage-award/about-the-award).