Daniel 3: Similarities to us today:
- Our culture creates larger than life images for me to **WORSHIP**. *See Daniel 3:1-7*
- I'm tempted to create a **FALSE** image of myself to impress others.
- If I reject the world's images and idols, people will try to **BURN** me. *See Daniel 3:8-12*
- Doing the right thing always makes some people **ANGRY**. *See Daniel 3:13-15*

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN THINGS HEAT UP?

1. Don't worry about **DEFENDING** yourself.
    "Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we don't need to defend ourselves in this matter'" Daniel 3:16 (NIV)

2. Remember that God has the **POWER** to rescue you.
    "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we worship is able to save us." Daniel 3:17a (NLV)

3. **BELIEVE** God will rescue you.
    "And he will save us from your power, O king." Daniel 3:17b (NIV/NLT)

    "When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you! For I am the Lord, your God!" Isaiah 43:2-3a (NLT)

4. I announce my **LOYALTY** to God, no matter what.
    "But even if God doesn't save us, we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up." Daniel 3:18 (NCV)

    GOD'S PROMISES WHEN THINGS HEAT UP:

1. God will **WALK** through the fire with me.
    "But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and asked his advisers, 'Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?' 'Yes, we did.' they said, 'Well look now!' he shouted. 'You can see four men now, unbound, walking around freely in the fire, unharmed! And the fourth man looks like a son of the gods!'" Daniel 3:24-25 (NCV/NLT)

2. God will burn off everything **TYING** me down.
    "I have refined you but not in the way silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering." Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)

3. God will give me a new **FREEDOM**.
    "You let captors set foot on our neck; then we went through fire and water and you led us out to freedom." Psalm 66:12 (NAB)

4. God makes sure I come out **UNHARMED**.
    "Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: 'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come out at once!' So, the 3 men stepped out of the fire. Then the princes, prefects, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!'" Daniel 3:26-27 (NLT/NET/NIV)

5. It will help those who don't know God take **STEPS** towards a relationship with Him.
    "Then the king said, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who sent his angel to rescue his servants. They trusted in him. They defied my command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God." Daniel 3:28 (NLT)

    "'Therefore, I make this decree: If anyone says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be put to death, and their houses will be destroyed. There is no other god who can save anyone like this!' Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon." Daniel 3:29-30 (NLT/NIV)

6. God will reward my **TRUST** in Him.

"10 ...Each person must be careful how he builds on it. 11 After all, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that is already laid, and that foundation is Jesus Christ. 12 People may build on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw. 13 The day will make what each one does clearly visible because fire will reveal it. That fire will determine what kind of work each person has done. 14 If what a person has built survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If his work is burned up, he will suffer the loss. However, he will be saved, though it will be like going through a fire." 1 Corinthians 3:10b-15 (GW)