

Ashes of Lent

by Scott Peterson, p. 38

A familiar Bible story reminded Covenant pastor Scott Peterson that God is with us even in the tragedy of California's wildfires.

1. When Scott Peterson and his wife Sheri initially fled their home during the fires in Santa Rosa, they only had time to grab their cat, their phones, and a laptop computer. What are the first things you would grab with so little time?
2. Peterson reflects on how his perspective on Lent shifted in the months after returning to his home. What Lenten practices best prepare you to focus on the Jesus of Easter?
3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were the Persian names for the three men in the flaming furnace, but they also had Hebrew names that meant God Is Gracious, Who Is Asked For?, and Helped by God. As you reflect on Lent this year, which name carries the most meaning for your personal life circumstances?
4. Just as the three Hebrew boys didn't know the outcome of being thrown into the fire, no one at Redwood Covenant knew how their stories were going to end. What uncertainties in your life have either strengthened or challenged your trust in God?
5. During this crisis, Redwood Covenant discovered as a community how to totally trust God. Why is it easier to go through struggles together than in solitude?