



The subtitle for our series in the book of Daniel is "10 Commitments to Make When Life Closes in". So far, we've highlighted the following commitments: (1) I Will Live as an Exile, (2) I Will Not Be Defiled, and (3) I Will Trust God for What I Need. We'll discuss our fourth commitment today: "I Will Not Bow Down." This is the decision Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego made in Daniel 3. Similarly, we'll face moments when we have to choose to either stand up for our faith or bow in submission to compromise. When that time arrives, will we have the resolve to stand firm and face the consequences?

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 3:1-18

#### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What encouraged you, challenged you, or stood out the most to you from the sermon?
2. In today's passage, we see King Nebuchadnezzar take something wicked (idol worship) and turn it into a large public celebration. Why do you think he wanted leaders and influencers from every province to worship the golden image? Do you think all of these leaders and influencers genuinely believed in worshipping this idol? Why do you think they yielded to the king's order if not?
3. Like King Nebuchadnezzar, our modern culture takes wicked ideas and turns them into something to celebrate. First, leaders and influencers seek to create sympathy toward an idea, and then, over time, it becomes more and more normalized. Eventually, those who refuse to adopt the idea are demonized. How have you seen this progression take place in our time? What arguments are often made to push conformity?
4. There will be times when we are forced to take a courageous stand for our faith. What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego risk by refusing to conform to the king's decree? What risks should we be prepared to endure when we refuse to compromise our faith?
5. When faced with the threat of punishment, some easily crumble, while others dig in their heels. How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respond to the threats of King Nebuchadnezzar? What does their response reveal about their faith? How should their response inform our own when it's our time to stand against compromising our faith? What does 1 Peter 4:12-16 have to say about facing trials?
6. How can we best prepare ourselves to remain faithful to God and resist compromise when the pressure to conform arrives?