



Last week we read about the wickedness of King Nebuchadnezzar, who set up an idol for the people of Babylon to worship. They were to fall on their faces in worship to this idol when the music played. As faithful followers of God, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to follow the king's order. So, Nebuchadnezzar threatened their lives. Nevertheless, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood firm, believing that God could deliver them from the fire, and if He chose not to do so, they still wouldn't bow in worship to this false god. While we may not face these exact circumstances, we'll come to a similar crossroads when we're forced to take an unpopular stand for our faith. When that time arrives, will we have the resolve to stand firm and face the consequences?

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 3:19-30

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What encouraged you, challenged you, or stood out the most to you from the sermon?
2. What punishment awaited those who refused to bow to the image of gold? In Daniel 3:19-23, how is the furnace described? How does the king's anger affect his response to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's refusal to bow in worship to the image of gold? How is this similar to how the world reacts when followers of Christ stand firm in their faith?
3. How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego enter the fire? How did their situation change when Jesus showed up? What did it look like when He stepped into the fire with them? What did Nebuchadnezzar see when he looked into the furnace? What does this teach us about God's presence in our lives?
4. Look back at Daniel 3:17-18. What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego declare to the king? What do these verses reveal about their dependence on God? How did this dependence invite God to step into their situation? What does it look like to rely on God when we're in a trial?
5. Read Habakkuk 3:17-18 and Psalm 23. What do these verses teach us about rejoicing in the Lord and trusting God's faithfulness in every circumstance? How can we keep these truths front and center in our lives while we're walking through difficult circumstances?
6. How are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego described in Daniel 3:27 as they came out of the fire? Without God, the fiery furnace was a hopeless situation. Yet, the Bible says, "For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). When did you face an impossible situation, but God showed up? How can

reflecting on these moments help us remain steadfast in the future?

7. In Daniel 3:28, what declaration did Nebuchadnezzar make when he saw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? What did he acknowledge about their faith? How can difficult circumstances in our lives serve as a testimony to unbelievers? How have you been encouraged by the testimony of other believers as they've gone through their trials?
8. As we saw a couple of weeks ago, Nebuchadnezzar remains unchanged by God's work in the lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. What does James 1:6 say about those who doubt God? How do we see this in the Nebuchadnezzar's life? What distinction do you see between the settled faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the inconsistent response of the king? What's the difference between "being moved" by God and not being "surrendered" to God?