



## **Introduction to “Faithful Through the Fire”**

This week, we press on in the book of Daniel, unpacking the third chapter, with one of the more well-known stories of the Old Testament. Sometimes, when we know the story, we can be lulled into skimming through it and experiencing more nostalgia than conviction. But don't miss the all-in conviction of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in this story. Also, don't acknowledge it passively as, “Wow, it's cool that they did that.” But aspire to it passionately as, “Wow, how can I live my faith to that level?”

In your discussion time this week, I encourage you to consider your day-to-day life in the context of the power of the Most High God. What would it look like to see God as these three must have, to be willing to put their lives on the line with confidence in God's faithfulness, and to express openly that whether he saves them or not, he is worthy of their devotion?

### **Daniel Series Objectives:**

Head: To understand the Book of Daniel.

Heart: To face hardship with courage.

Hands: To make choices that glorify God.

## **Part 3: Faithful Through the Fire**

Text: Daniel 3

Big Idea: Belief in a limitless God will produce limitless fruit through limited people.

From the Sermon (add your own notes here):

“And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.”

“If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.”

“Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants.”

### **Getting Started**

Where do you see God in control in and around your life?

What have you previously learned about the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Was anything from the story new to you, or surprising?

In the last week, what opportunities have you seen to live out your faith in a way some would call “radical?”

## **Digging Deeper**

“Worship” is a word we use for a lot of different things today. How would you define worship? What things do you see the world worshipping?

Look at how you spend your time. What things might be getting your worship and dedication above and beyond God?

What motivations do you think drove the Chaldeans to expose Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to the king? What did they stand to gain?

The king opened the door with his question in verse 15 for the three men to testify to God. What things do people say or do around us that open those doors for us to proclaim Christ?

Discuss the twofold response to the king. What does it mean that he is able to deliver? And why is it important to acknowledge that he might not deliver them in this instance?

What kinds of emotions do you think they were feeling as the furnace was being heated? And how might they have helped each other in those moments?

How can we help each other stand firm in our faith when challenges come?

Read John 16:32-33, Acts 4:23-31 and Acts 8:1-4.

What did the early believers do before the persecution started that prepared them to continue spreading the gospel when it began? How can we be preparing ourselves for such tribulations, so that we respond likewise?

### **Live It Out**

**Pray:** Take time to give thanks for God's protection. Thank him for a country that allows us to worship him openly. Pray for boldness in the places and times when we find ourselves among people who need Jesus and may even be hostile to the gospel.

**Confess:** What open doors to share Jesus have you seen and passed by? What circumstances have you been in where people might be open to it and what kept you from speaking up?

**Act:** Identify places in the coming week where you might have chances to share your faith. Share these potential opportunities with your group to be held accountable. And make it a point to share with the group if you get to have any gospel conversations in those windows.