



Bianca Olthoff Fearless in the Fire

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[Daniel 3:7-12 NIV]

Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

1. The decisions you make today will effect your tomorrow.

Definition of their Hebrew names:

- **Hananiah:** *Beloved by God*
- **Mishael:** *Who is like God?*
- **Azariah:** *The Lord is my God*

Definition of their Babylonian names vs. their Hebrew names

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| • Shadrach <i>Illuminated by sun god</i> | Hananiah <i>Beloved by God</i> |
| • Meshach <i>Who is like Venus?</i> | Mishael <i>Who is like God?</i> |
| • Abednego <i>Servant of Nebu</i> | Azariah <i>The Lord is my God</i> |

[Daniel 3:13-15]

Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

[Daniel 3:16-18]

*Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is **able** to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."*

2. When you know who you are and know who you serve, it changes everything.

[Daniel 3:17]

*If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is **able** to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand.*

[Isaiah 43:2]

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

3. It isn't about you.

[Daniel 3:18]

But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

[Daniel 3:19-20]

Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.

Don't put a period if God isn't done writing the story!

[Daniel 3:21-23]

So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

[Daniel 3:24-25]

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

"The only way to get free is to go *through* the fire."

4. The thing that was supposed to kill you freed you and caused you to be in the presence of God.

[Daniel 3:26-27]

Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

[Daniel 3:28-29]

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

5. God gets the glory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you like things safe or do you live a little more on the wild side?
2. Can you recall a godly decision you made in the past that has laid a firm foundation for the blessing of God you are experiencing today?

3. How can we live life confident of who we are and who we serve? What names does God call you and how are they in opposition to what the enemy has spoken over you?
4. Has there been a time in your life when you stood for righteousness and a by-stander who witnessed your decision was impacted?
5. How have you been surviving the fires of life? How can we walk through these fires and stay confident that God will use it to refine us?
6. Share your stories of when you experienced a fire that you thought would consume you only to discover that the presence of God and His healing power was increased in the fire?
7. Spend some time praying for each other, ask God to reveal himself in the midst of the fire you find yourself in. Give God the glory he deserves.