

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

Daniel 3:8-18

Review

- Go around the group, each person starting with:
"The best way for me to relax is...".
- How would you describe the characteristics of true faith?
- In what ways is sacred and secular music used today to build our allegiances to something or someone?

Remind

- Who accused the Jews before the king (v.8)? Why?
- Who was specifically singled out for not obeying the king's command (v.12)? What political positions did they hold? What were their Jewish names? (See Daniel 1:7).
- What did Nebuchadnezzar do when he heard what they had done (v.13)? Describe how the king felt about them?
- Did the king give the Jews a final chance to obey (v.15)? If so, why? What options were the Jews given?
- Did the Jews try to defend themselves, or did they accept the charge (v.16)? Were they nervous? (See Luke 12:11-12)
- How did the Jews believe God would help them (v.17-18)?

Respond

- What was God's command about bowing before idols? (See Exodus 20:4-5). What is God's image? See Colossians 1:15-17.
- What kind of things does the Devil do to destroy our faith?
- List some of the ways we are asked to compromise within our culture if we are going to fit in with our communities?
- How do you think it would feel to make a choice of faith that you knew could result in your own death?
- The 3 Jews faithfully declared, *"God will rescue us"* (v.17b). Compare other similar declarations: Ps 27:1-2, Job 5:19, Isaiah 26:3. How do these verses impact your walk of faith today?
- You could end by reading together Daniel 3:18

Daniel 3:8-18 (NIVUK)

The image of gold and the blazing furnace

⁸ At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, 'May the king live for ever! ¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹² 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.'

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ 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?'

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 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. 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.'**