

## FIRE & FAITHFULNESS STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 3



#### **MAIN SCRIPTURES:**

Daniel 3

2. OBSERVE

The Straight Facts

#### MAIN POINT:

Our obedience is not just about us—when we obey, others can see God's power displayed.

What other Scripture might help me

What is this text's clearest meaning?

interpret this text?

#### JESUS CONNECTION:

Daniel is awesome, but he isn't the hero of the story: God is. God is the hero of our stories too.

@HopeHSM

**1. READ**The Bible

Yessss! We are glad you are here because taking time on your own to study God's word is an amazing way to grow in your relationship with Him. Life with Jesus is the best life! Take a moment to pray and ask God to lead you as you study this Scripture; then read the Scripture (from your Bible or it's on the back).

# What: Research answers using trusted sources like a Study Bible, BibleProject.com, BlueLetterBible.org, and/or Bible.org What: What is the historical and/or cultural context of this Scripture? What else do I know about the author, audience, or context of this passage? Why: What do key words mean in their original language?

What is Repetitive?

How: \_\_\_\_\_

Highlight it

What is Contrast?

Underline it

3. INTERPRET	4. APPLY
What Does the Text Mean?	Getting Personal

What truth(s) from this Scripture can you apply to your life right now?	
What is God saying to you throug this Scripture?	 

#### **MAIN SCRIPTURES**

#### **Daniel 3 NIV**

#### The Image of Gold and the Blazing Furnace

**3** King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. <sup>2</sup> He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. <sup>3</sup> So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

- <sup>4</sup> Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: <sup>5</sup> As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."
- <sup>7</sup> 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.
- <sup>8</sup> At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. <sup>9</sup> They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! <sup>10</sup> 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, <sup>11</sup> and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. <sup>12</sup> 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."

<sup>13</sup> Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, <sup>14</sup> 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? <sup>15</sup> 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?"

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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."

<sup>19</sup> 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 <sup>20</sup> and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. <sup>21</sup> So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace.

·	 	

**NOTES** 

**DOODLES** 

#### **MAIN SCRIPTURES**

#### **Daniel 3 NIV Continued**

<sup>22</sup>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, <sup>23</sup> and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

<sup>24</sup>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."

<sup>25</sup> 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."

<sup>26</sup> 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, <sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."

<sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.


**DOODLES** 

**NOTES** 



# FIRE & FAITHFULNESS TEACHING GUIDE ——— WEEK 3 ———



#### **MAIN SCRIPTURES:**

Daniel 3

#### MAIN POINT:

Our obedience is not just about us—when we obey, others can see God's power displayed.

#### JESUS CONNECTION:

Daniel is awesome, but he isn't the hero of the story: God is. God is the hero of our stories too.

#### LIVE AND VIDEO TEACHING HYBRID FORMAT

#### **THE WHAT**

WHAT are we talking about and WHY does it matter to me? (2-3 min)

#### ME

 When have you been pressured to do something you did not want to do? Share a personal, relatable story and its outcome.

#### WE

 Standing firm under pressure can be hard—especially when we feel pressured by authority figures. There will be times when a boss, coach, or teacher may have expectations on us that go against our convictions. So how do we find the balance between listening to our earthly authority figures and obeying God as our ultimate authority?

#### **TRANSITION**

 Today in our video, Sadie will walk through the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and explain how their obedience to God became a demonstration of God's power.

#### **SO WHAT**

So WHAT does this mean for my faith and life with God? (5-6 min)

#### GOD

- Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Sadie's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how she answers the following questions.
  - After putting up a huge golden image, what did King Nebuchadnezzar require of everyone?
  - How does this story showcase God's sovereign control, despite what we see?
- Watch Session 3: Faithful in the Fire (7 minutes).


### **NOTES** SO WHAT CONTINUED **JESUS CONNECTION** Daniel is awesome, but Daniel isn't the hero of his story. God is the hero. God rescues and saves Daniel and his friends. Don't miss this: the same is true for us. We aren't the heroes of our story. God is the hero of our story and of our lives. God sent His son Jesus to rescue and save us from sin and death. We can only live faithful lives to God after we first put our faith in Jesus, in His loving grace. Once we take that first step, then we are called to a life of faithfulness. A life where we walk trusting God is faithful to us, even in the fire. So what does this mean for us today? **NOW WHAT** NOW that I know, HOW can I live this out? (2-3 min) What does this mean for you? Just like Daniel, you can chose to follow God, even when others around you do not. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not only showed us what it means to be confident and firm in our convictions, but also how our actions can impact more people than we could ever imagine. When you chose to obey and follow God, His power is displayed in your life and it can completely change the beliefs of those surrounding you. Whenever we find ourselves in a difficult situation, we can act in a way that brings others into the knowledge of God. We can chose to follow God, even when others around us are not.

#### WE

YOU

**TRANSITION** 

Whenever we find ourselves in a difficult situation, we can act in a way that brings others into the knowledge of God. We can choose to follow God and to stand with other believers when they do – even if they go to different churches or aren't best friends with them – we have something in common that is the biggest bond of all – being God's family together.

#### **PRAY**

Close your time together in prayer. This week take some time to meditate on what it means to be faithful in the fire. Pray that God helps you to stand firm on his Word when it seems too difficult, or even scary.




## FIRE & FAITHFULNESS DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 3 ——



## MAIN SCRIPTURES: Daniel 3

#### MAIN POINT:

Our obedience is not just about us—when we obey, others can see God's power displayed.

#### **IESUS CONNECTION:**

Daniel is awesome, but he isn't the hero of the story: God is. God is the hero of our stories too.

#### LEADER CORNER

#### **GOAL OF SMALL GROUP**

To encourage students to see it is worth the risk to trust and obey God, even in hard situations.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

Daniel and His friends show BOLD FAITH. Daniel 3:17-18: "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 vou to know. Your Maiestv. that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up. "What's your bold "even if" prayer? What are you hoping God will do in your life, or the life of others, that you will choose to boldly pray for AND boldly follow God "even if He does not." Think of what bold "even if" prayer you can make in your life right now and share it with your students.

#### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

#### **CONVERSATION GUIDE**

#### **GET THEM TALKING**

Why is it hard to stand against peer pressure sometimes?

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What stood out to you from the video?

#### READ DANIEL 3:1-18 and answer the following questions:

- 2. Put yourself in Daniel's friend's shoes, how do you think you would respond? Why?
- 3. In what ways have you felt pressure to "worship another god" or go against God's ways by friends or family?
- 4. What can we learn from Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's story about confidently living for God in secular spaces?
- 5. How can we trust God "even if" He doesn't do something we hope He will?

#### READ DANIEL 3:19-30 and answer the following questions:

- 6. How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendgo's actions effect other people's faith?
- 7. Share about a time where you were pressured to stand up for your faith or give into pressure against it? What happened? What did you do?
- 8. How can the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego help you in the future when facing a compromising choice?
- 9. What could it look like for you to stand firm for your faith in the future? How could you have the courage to do so?

#### **NEXT STEP**

Write out Daniel 3:17–18 on a notecard and place it somewhere you'll see it often, like your bathroom mirror or car dashboard. Use it as a reminder to trust God, even if He hasn't answered your prayers.

#### PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

#### MAIN SCRIPTURES

#### Daniel 3 NIV

#### The Image of Gold and the Blazing Furnace

- **3** King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. <sup>2</sup> He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. <sup>3</sup> So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.
- <sup>4</sup> Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: <sup>5</sup> As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace." <sup>7</sup> 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.
- <sup>8</sup> At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. <sup>9</sup> They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! <sup>10</sup> 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, <sup>11</sup> and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. <sup>12</sup> 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."
- <sup>13</sup> Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, <sup>14</sup> 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? <sup>15</sup> 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?"
- <sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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."
- <sup>19</sup> 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 <sup>20</sup> and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. <sup>21</sup> So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace.
- <sup>22</sup> 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, <sup>23</sup> and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. <sup>24</sup> 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."
- <sup>25</sup> 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." <sup>26</sup> 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, <sup>27</sup> 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.
- <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."
- <sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.