UNSHAKEABLE
AGAINST ALL ODDS
WEEK 5: WHEN THE HEAT IS ON

"When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue."
-Daniel 3:5b-6

Hollywood and sports teams give us plenty of people to idolize. Social media shows us how to make ourselves appear greater than we are. But God tells us He is to have first place in our lives. When confronted with social pressure to conform to the world's standards, God is there to defend us when we believe in Him and declare our allegiance to Him. Trusting God frees us, causes unbelievers to come to Him, and gains for us eternal rewards in heaven.

OPENING PRAYER

Open your group with a prayer. This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.

"I have refined you but not as silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering."
-Isaiah 48:10

1. Since God is more concerned about our character than our comfort, we sometimes find ourselves in the furnace of suffering. Share a time when your character was tested by suffering. What has you tied up in the furnace? What part of your character could God be building through this?

"Then Nebuchadnezzar said, 'Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! . . . who trusted in him.'" -Daniel 3:28

2. Who or what would you be willing to die for? If you were asked to choose between your life and the approval of others, which would you choose and why? When have you been forced to make the unpleasant choice of doing what is right before God or conforming to social pressure? How do you feel now about your choice?

"Each of us must be careful how we build (our lives)*, because Christ is the only solid foundation. Whatever we build on that foundation will be tested by fire . . . If what we built is left standing, we will be rewarded! But if what we've built is burned up by the fire, we will lose our reward. Yet we will be saved, like someone escaping from flames."*
-1 Corinthians 3:10b-15

3. What steps are you taking to build a life on a foundation that can be tested by fire? What direction should you take now to make sure you will collect your rewards in heaven?

DIVING DEEPER (OPTIONAL)

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we worship is able to save us." -Daniel 3:17

1. Reflect on a time of trouble, difficulty or oppression in your life. How did God empower you to bear up under it or rescue you from it? Who have you told about what God did in your life?

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up. Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual."
-Daniel 3:17-19

2. The king's face was distorted with his anger. How does your character compare to these three men when confronted with an angry attack? How can you strengthen your character for the next time?

Prayer requests and closing prayer.