

Daniel 3

December 15, 2024



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Activity: Measuring Up

What You'll Need:

- Printed paper rulers with different forms of measurement (inches, centimeters, millimeters, etc.)
- Items to measure (table, chair, poster, sign, etc.)
- Blank sheets of paper
- Pens

How to Play:

1. Make a list of items to measure on the whiteboard or screen.
2. Give each student a ruler, a blank sheet of paper, and a pen.
3. Invite students to use their rulers to measure the items on the list and write down their measurements.
4. When everyone's done, call out one item at a time and ask students to share their measurements.
5. When the measurements don't match, ask them why they think that is.

Teaching Moment:

In today's game, our measurements didn't match because we didn't have a standard ruler. As Christians, our standard is the Bible and what it teaches us.

Today, we'll talk about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—three Bible characters who followed Scripture's standards even when it was hard.

What do you think it means to worship something or someone?

DISCUSSION

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 3:1-7.

This part of chapter 3 sets the stage for everything that will happen after. What happened in these verses? Why was this important for those who worshiped God?

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 3:8-23.

Think about the king in this passage. What was most important to him? How is this like attitudes we see in our culture today?

How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respond? How would you describe their faith?

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 3:24-30.

What was the outcome of this hard situation?

Who do you think is the fourth man in the furnace?

What can we learn about God in this passage?

GOING DEEPER

What are some things people worship in the world today, even if they aren't literal statues of idols? How are we tempted in this way?

How can we be on guard to not fall into the trap of worshiping the idols of our culture?

APPLICATION

What does it look like for us to live faithfully as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did?

What do most people say is normal or fine for teens that God gives us different direction for? Why is it important to decide who will listen to in advance?

What does chapter 3 tell us about God and how He provides for us?

PRAYER

Thank God for walking with us, even when life is hard. Ask Him to show us how we can live boldly in faith like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

LOOKING AHEAD

We will take a break from Daniel and Bro. Larry will preach a Christmas message next Sunday. Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

December 22, 2024 --- Luke 2:42-52

COMMENTARY

Daniel 3

Daniel's Friends Refuse to Bow to the King's Image

(3:1-18). Nebuchadnezzar made a huge, gold image. The image may have represented his sovereign authority or one of his gods. The king ordered all of his subjects to attend a dedication ceremony for the image. At a designated time they were to bow down to the image. All who refused to worship the image would be thrown into a fiery furnace. When Daniel's friends refused to bow down to the image, the angry king gave them an ultimatum and warned them of the consequences of disobedience. They explained that their loyalty to the Lord prevented them from worshiping images. They also told the king that the Lord was able to deliver them from the furnace if He so desired.

Daniel's Friends Delivered from the Furnace

(3:19-30). After ordering the furnace to be heated to its maximum temperature, Nebuchadnezzar had Daniel's friends tied up and thrown in. The fire was so hot that its flames killed the soldiers who threw them in. However, when Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace, he saw the three men walking around unbound, accompanied by an angelic being. When the king ordered them out of the furnace, they were completely unharmed. Nebuchadnezzar praised the Lord for delivering His faithful servants, decreed that anyone who slandered the Lord be executed, and promoted the three men.