

Grace Group Discussion Guide

For the week of August 19-August 25, 2018

Main Thought and Passages:

Our faith will be tested because we live in a fallen world filled with sin. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were pressured to bow down to a false god or be thrown into a fiery furnace. Instead of giving into fear and compromise, they stood because they had faith that said, "I'll serve God **even if** I don't get what I want." In contrast, many serve God **only if** they get what they want from God. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's faith was true faith and enabled them to stand boldly and to be a light.

*"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." (Daniel 3:17-18 NIV)*

- They trusted in God's power and His love in the face of opposition.
- They resolved to stand "even if" they were to die in the fire because they knew that God would ultimately deliver them in Heaven.

"Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious... ²⁰and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace... ²⁴Then 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.' ²⁵He said, 'Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods... ²⁷They 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 3:19-20, 24-25, 27 NIV)

- Jesus is close and walks with us through the fires of life and victoriously out the other side.
- Allow the fire to bring us into a greater relationship and trust in Jesus.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18 NIV)

"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.'" (Daniel 3:28 NIV)

- When we faithfully stand for God, we become a light to all who witness.

Reflection:

- What stands out to you from the main thought and passages above and why?
- Share about a time when you had an opportunity to stand for God. What did you do? What happened and what did you learn?

Application:

- In what ways do you need to stand for God now with your friends, family, at work, school, etc.? What lessons can you apply from this discussion to help you to stand and shine for Him?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another to boldly stand for God and be a light.
- Pray for an unreached friend or family member that you are believing will come to know Jesus through you.

To take your next step, text "NEXT" to (808) 427-0034

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