



WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Faithful Presence

Faith in the Furnace

Daniel 3:13-18

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

*“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” **Daniel 3:17-18***

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego issue this powerful statement of faith as they refuse to bow down to the image of the king. They are confident that their God is able to deliver them – remembering stories of the past and throughout their own lives – and they refuse to break a central tenet of their faith. The kind of faith exhibited by these men is a kind of faith which not only involves what we believe in, but which most importantly involves **trust**.*

1. *When we choose to live our faith as **trust**, how can we more readily face moments of crisis with hope?*
2. *Why do you think God chose to save them **in** the fire, and not **from** the fire? What does it mean to live more by God's grace than by faith in God's intervention?*

*A major principle of the book of Daniel is **community**. These men understand and appreciate that they need each other and they cannot endure these trials alone. Community is necessary for us to continue to head in the direction in which God calls us.*

1. *How do we see these men strengthened by the presence of community throughout their trials?*
2. *During these challenging times in which we live, how does community help us when our faith is tested? What are some ways in which we can support one another in community as we learn to trust God with the outcomes?*

Heavenly Father, We thank you for the truth that faith is not having confidence in particular outcomes, but confidence in Your sovereignty. Transform our small faith into the trust which helps us refuse to worship anything other than you, knowing that any other idols will consume us. **Amen**.

