



WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Faithful Presence

Priorities

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***

Even at the edge of the furnace, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will not denounce their faith and their God, even if doing so would save their lives. Thomas points out that our basic instincts lead us to mimic others so that we can stay safe and fit in. However, we are not capable of making a difference in this world if we constantly default to fitting in.

- *Look at the patterns of your life—where you live, work, play, and your life here at Covenant. In what areas has it been easier for you to just blend in?*
- *Do you see some times and places where God is possibly calling you NOT to fit in?*

There are moments in our faith life when we're asked to live differently. Thomas points out that when we deny publicly what we believe, and just keep it to ourselves, that it changes us. We live in a society that would love for us to keep our faith to ourselves.

- *Thomas reminds us that we have each been uniquely created to change the world. Every day we have choices to make to be different – how does knowing this change your attitude and the choices you will make this week?*
- *What are some ways and practices in which you will seek God's guidance as you choose to be different?*

Heavenly Father, Thank you for the strong example of faith of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Though we will likely never find ourselves standing on the edge of a fiery furnace, help us have the kind of amazingly strong faith that we do not keep to ourselves, but to use to change the world. **Amen.**

