

Lessons from Lives

May 20-21, 2017

Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego:
Facing Your Fiery Furnace

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Big Idea

A faith that is _____ is a faith that can be _____

"These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."

1 Peter 1:7

Background

"King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold . . . and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon . . . the herald proclaimed . . . whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire." Therefore when all the people heard the music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshiped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up."

Daniel 3:1,6,7

Three Qualities Of Faith That Remains Strong When Tested

1. Faithfulness begins with the _____

Daniel 1:5, 11-13, 15

Memory Verse

"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities."

Luke 16:10

2. Faith _____ in spite of what it _____

"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."

Daniel 3:17

3. Faithful _____ is our responsibility,
the _____ is God's

"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."

Daniel 3:18

MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Place my trust in Jesus Christ for the first time today
- Memorize Luke 16:10
- Ask God to help me to have an "even if He doesn't" faith
- Get the most out of this message by attending my CORE group this week.



Be sure and invite a friend, family member or co-worker to join you next week at ERBC!

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Discussion Questions - Week # 5

COREGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend “Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego: Facing Your Fiery Furnace”, in a sentence or two summarize the main point.

What impacted you the most from the message?

GETTING STARTED

1. This weekend we learned about Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego and the fiery furnace. What's your favorite thing to cook over an open fire?

2. If a faith that is tested is a faith that can be trusted, would ever or have you ever asked God to test your faith? Why or why not?

DIGGING DEEPER

3. Read Matthew 4:1-11. Why do you think God led Jesus into the desert where the devil could tempt him?

Do you think it was possible for Jesus to fail the test?

Jesus must have told the disciples this story for the Gospel writers to include it. What do you think was Jesus' purpose in sharing it?

What underlying desires do you think are behind the three tests the devil presented?

Where have you experienced testing in your faith? How have you grown as a result of the tests you've faced?

4. Read John 20:24- 31. How would you have felt if you were Thomas and missed out on seeing the risen Jesus?

Do you think Jesus was disappointed with Thomas for his unbelief? Why or why not?

For whom do you think it was harder to believe, Thomas or us?

What are things that you can do to maintain your belief in spite of what you see (or don't see)?

5. Read Luke 19:11-27. Have a member of your group explain this parable. With which of the characters of this story do you most identify?

Do you think the man of noble birth in this story was fair?

Because the first and second servant were faithful with a small amount, the man of noble birth rewarded them with great responsibility. What are the small things in your life in which your faithfulness could make a difference?

What steps can we take to be more like the first two servants, and less like the third?

TAKING IT HOME

6. What tangible small step could you take this week to grow in the area of faithfulness?

7. How can the group be praying for you to grow in faith through the situations that test you?

PRAYER REQUESTS