



Life Guide applying God's Word to life

The God We Serve Is Able To Save Us February 2, 2020

(Daniel 3.13-27)

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, 'Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?' ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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." ¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. ²⁴ Then 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, O king." ²⁵ He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." ²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They 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.

1. There are some Babylonian names in here. Let's review pronunciations!
Shadrach =
Meshach =
Abednego =
Nebuchadnezzar=
2. Think of a time when being a Christian has made your life difficult?
3. Agree or disagree: The cultural situation of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego was the same as our cultural situation in 2020 America.
4. List some things you can observe about Nebuchadnezzar based on his quote from 14-15.
5. Predict how Nebuchadnezzar's words might change after he witnessed God save the three men from the blazing furnace. (After your predictions, the leader will read what he said in the verses following the story.)
6. A miracle is something only God can do. Verses 24-28 are a visible miracle. Can you describe the miracle that happened in v. 16-18?
7. POP QUIZ! What is the First Commandment? (Hint: Martin Luther explained it like this: "We should *fear*, *love* and *trust* in God above all things.")
8. What does it mean that these three men *feared* God above all things? What does it mean that these three men *loved* God above all things? What does it mean that these three men *trusted* God above all things?
9. The three men did not know what God planned to do. What was most important to them? Think of a personal situation in which doing or saying the right thing could be unpopular. In what different ways could this event from the book of Daniel be encouraging to you?
10. In what ways does Jesus' death and resurrection for you, and the Holy Spirit's miraculous faith-creation in you change your battle against a culture that's hostile to Christianity?
11. If someone asks you tomorrow what you discussed at life group, what will you identify as your big takeaway?