



January 12-13, 2021

Series: BASIC

Message: Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego (Daniel 3)

Teacher: Brianne Farrell

The Main Thing: *Giving in to temptation can be a life or death defying moment.*

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

Icebreaker: What are some of your New Year's "faith" resolutions?

Do you know any "basic" people who you've seen changing the world? How?

Are you ever tempted to think that God can't use you because of your age?

Share a story of a time you gave in to temptation:

Did it turn you into a different person? (In a good or bad way.)

What did you learn from it?

Why do you think we are remembered in life for the big decisions we make?

How does this change your perspective on how you want to live your life?

Have you ever had an experience where someone ratted you out like the Astrologers did?

What happened?

How can jealousy cause us problems?

We aren't called as Christians to engage in a fight over beliefs.

In what ways can we respect others' beliefs while still being an example through the way we live our lives?

What are some ways we can show love to our enemies?

What fire are you going through right now?

What will your reaction be if God doesn't "save you" from it?

How does it comfort you to know that God is right there with you in the fire?

How can temptations and challenges in our lives grow us or even be used to redeem us?

What “ropes” do you have around you right now that God may need to “burn up?”

How will you allow God to use you as an example to the “Nebuchadnezzars” of the world?

Scriptures Referenced: Daniel 3; Luke 6:27-28; Hebrews 12:4; Isaiah 43:2

Bible Background Notes:

3:1 This may be similar to the Assyrian practice of erecting statues commemorating their rulers to exalt them. Sometimes offerings were brought to these statues, so the king was being honored similar to a god. Failure to participate could be thought of as insubordination. The three friends are not being asked to worship a deity, but they are being asked to participate in a ritual to honor the king which is similar to how the gods were treated. The statue was most likely on a large pedestal and plated with gold.

3:2 The occasion was likely gathering the officials together for a loyalty oath. He lists the attendees in ranking order. They were to pledge allegiance to the newly established empire as they stood by the statue.

3:6 Most likely, the furnace was already in place, being used to make bricks for construction projects or metalwork, not set up as an instrument of punishment. It was probably made of clay or brick, and lined with specially selected stone.

3:15 Proud rulers at the time often made similar boasts.

3:18 Whether God decides to rescue them or not, their faith is fully given to him.

3:19 “Seven times hotter” was just an expression, referring to as hot as possible (seven signifies completeness). The furnace would typically be 900-1,100 degrees centigrade and could not exceed 1,500 degrees, or 2,732 degrees fahrenheit.

3:25 “Son of the gods” represented a common Semitic expression for identifying a supernatural being. It wasn’t necessarily a deep insight or sophisticated theology.

The king thought it might be an angel or lesser heavenly being sent by the all-powerful king of the Jews.

Commentary OT; NIV Study Bible

Sources: The IVP Bible Background