

The Life of Daniel Week 3

Living out Faith in the Fire (Small Groups Participant Guide)

Group Time

Introduction

Daniel's life was an extraordinary one, full of godly convictions and courage to live out those ideals, all while loving well. It was a life with scary and terrible tests that Daniel managed to pass because of his strong relationship with God. Today, open your hearts to the Holy Spirit, as he leads us on a journey that will teach us how to take risks and stand our ground in the fire, for the kingdom of God.

Discussion Questions and Leader Notes

1. Daniel faced the lions in the den; Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chose to step into the fiery furnace: all were afraid, probably terrified. Though they trusted God, they didn't know if he would rescue them or not, but they feared God more than men. To the unbeliever, fear of the Lord is connected to judgement, death and separation from God. Read Job 28:28, Psalm 112:1, Hebrews 12:5-8, and 28-29. What does it mean for a Christian to fear God? How can we build up our fear of God?

2. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego risked everything and were delivered from the flames; Daniel too, chose to risk his life, and he did not become a late-night snack for the lions. Many people, however, have risked and were not delivered. Read 1 Samuel 15:22, John 14:21, and 1 John 2:3-6. In addition to fearing God and building the kingdom, which we'll talk about in question 4, why should we face the "fire" when we do not know the outcome?

3. Read Daniel 3:28-30. How did the kingdom of God grow because Daniel's friends risked everything? Read 6:25-27. How did the kingdom of God grow because Daniel faced the lions? What other people in the Bible took giant God-directed risks that resulted in the kingdom being grown? What God-directed risks can modern Christians take to build the kingdom? Share.

4. Pastor Dan asked, "When your life is over, what story do you want it to tell? Share in the group. Contemplate this: Are you listening to the Holy Spirit and taking the risks that will give you the story you desire? Move to the Prayer/Ministry section here.

Taking it Home

Going Deeper

Subscribe to our e-devotionals that include the following:

- Devotionals based on the current sermon;
- Sent directly to your email box Monday–Friday;
- iTunes-link songs played during the weekend's worship;
- Book suggestions from Pastor Dan surrounding the series topic.
- Subscribe here: http://eepurl.com/cs8_fT or text "edevotional" to 67076.

Memory Verse

John 14:21: "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

Notes

The Perspectives Curriculum is
written by Small Groups volunteers at
Water of Life Community Church.
www.wolgroups.com