

Family Group Outline – August 2nd, 2026

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MBC:

1. A new year of Adventure Club and Basecamp begins August 14th. You can register your child(ren) at: <https://makakilochurch.org/resources/registrations>.
2. All keiki who just completed grades K-12 will promote to the next Sunday School Classroom.
3. All youth are invited to a night of worship on August 7th from 6:30-9:00pm at Aiea Hights Church. Please register if you are planning to attend: <https://aieaheights.churchcenter.com/registrations/signups/3760599>.
4. Our monthly Church Workday is this Saturday at 8:30am. Lunch will be provided.
5. We are glad to announce that Sunday Evening Worship resumes August 23rd. The service will be from 5:30-6:30pm.
6. To prepare for the preaching of the word on this coming Lord's Day, we would encourage you to meditate on the passage ahead of time. This Sunday's sermon will be from Daniel 4.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: *Perseverance of Saints* - We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. John 8:31; 1 John 2:27-28; 3:9; 5:18; 1 John 2:19; John 13:18; Matt. 13:20-21; John 6:66-69; Job 17:9; Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30-33; Jer. 32:40; Psa. 121:3; 91:11-12; Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 24-25; Heb. 1:14; 2 Kings 6:16; Heb. 13:5; 1 John 4:4.

WISDOM: "Of all the passions, the passion for the Inner Ring is most skillful in making a man who is not yet a very bad man do very bad things." - C.S. Lewis

WORD: "The Futility of Fighting God's Friends", Daniel 3

Suggested questions:

1. Read Daniel 3. Was there anything that particularly challenged, impacted, or confused you from this Sunday's message?
2. What are some situations in our modern world where we are tempted to compromise for the sake of security, success, or influence?
3. What truths will motivate courage when we are tempted to compromise?

DIGGING DEEPER: Courage Under Fire

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/courage-under-fire>

Courage Under Fire

“If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”
Daniel 3:17-18

Divine sovereignty comforts and strengthens us in many ways, not the least of which is the assurance it gives that God works all things together for good (Rom. 8:28). But it also gives us courage in the face of great opposition, and there is perhaps no greater illustration of this than the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace.

Most of us probably know this story quite well. Usually we emphasize the Lord's miraculous rescue of His three servants as it is described in the passage and rightly so. Who could not be amazed at the wonderful working of God whereby He preserved these men when no one else could get close to the fire without being consumed? (Dan. 3:22–25). Yet what we might miss if we are not careful is that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were willing to go to the fire even if God were not to preserve their lives (vv. 16–18).

The whole episode began with Nebuchadnezzar's construction of a gold (probably gold-plated) image measuring (in modern equivalents) ninety feet tall and nine feet wide. We do not know for sure whether this was an image of the king himself or an image of a Babylonian god, though it was likely the latter. In any case, Nebuchadnezzar ordered the image to be worshipped, but the Jews refused (vv. 1–7, 12). Some of the king's advisors, probably motivated by jealousy that foreigners had been exalted to a lofty place in the king's court, betrayed the three faithful men and their unwillingness to worship the idol. Brought before the king, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were ordered to break the first and second commandments by worshipping the idols. Here was Nebuchadnezzar, the most powerful man in the known world at the time, one used to getting his own way every time, commanding three men he captured from Jerusalem (vv. 8–15). If anyone should have feared the great and mighty Nebuchadnezzar, it should have been these men.

Daniel's faithful friends refused, but their refusal was not based on their possessing sure knowledge that they would not be burned alive. Their view of God was big enough for them to acknowledge that they did not owe the Lord service because of what He could do for them but because He alone is God (3:16–18). They were unwilling to yield even if the Lord were to allow them to die, for they did not count their own lives worth keeping if preserving themselves meant that they would dishonor the Lord. Are we willing to make such a commitment, to be willing to die rather than to betray Him?

Coram Deo

God rescued His faithful servants when they showed themselves unwilling to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's dictates. The Lord promises to deliver us as well, though this deliverance might not occur until He returns. In any case, we serve God not because of what He promises us in the here and now but because of what He promises us in eternity to come.

Let us serve God for who He is and trust in His wisdom to deliver us no matter how He sees fit.