



Digging Deeper:

Faith in the Fire

Go around and share a time when you were tested in your faith. Be prepared to go first in order to show some transparency and also to give them an example. Remember, this doesn't have to be the equivalent of being thrown into the fiery furnace and it doesn't even need to be an example of successfully passing the test. The goal is to bring to life a concept like testing your faith.

Read Daniel 3:16-18

Have a discussion about what Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego believed. Consider more than just this chapter. What did they believe about God? What did they believe about worship? What did they tell the king?

Next, go around and talk about what you (each person) believes. Encourage them not to just give the answers they think you want to hear. But really consider what do they actually believe about God, about worship... what are their fears... what are their questions? This might be a good time to recap some of what Pastor Jim taught.

Activity:

We are learning that we should choose to follow God's command, no matter what the situation.

Procedure: Take your family outside to a location near a large tree, pole, or other item that they can easily grip. Have one person stand in front of everyone. Instruct them to stay in that spot, no matter what. Then, have another person pull that person off his or her spot.

Ask: Why couldn't you stay on your spot?

Staying in that spot is like making decisions in our lives. We decide to do one thing, such as staying in that spot, but others can easily change our decision. Others pressure us to change our position, whether we like it or not. Sometimes, this peer pressure is too strong to fight.

What do we need to make us strong? What would help us not move from our spot?

Now, have the first person wrap his or her arms around the tree, pole, or other item and instruct them to hold on tightly. Have the second person try to move the first student again. This time, they will not be able to move the other. We needed something to hold on to. When you had something to hold tightly too, the other student was not able to budge you from your position! In life, we need to hold onto something when making choices. Does anyone know what that is? That's right, we need to hold onto God's commands. If we hold tightly to those, God will help us and we won't lose our position. His word helps us to withstand bad pressures. Remember, you have the power to hold tightly to God's word so that you can resist peer pressure.

Take time to discuss any areas members in your family are being challenged and need to seek God's word to stand firm. Help each other find truths in God's work that will enable you to stand firm.