

LAPS WITH THE LEGENDS
Week 2: Another in the Fire
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



RECAP

In this second sermon looking back to the legendary feats of our Old Testament ancestors, Josh told the incredibly true story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and four powerful life lessons we can learn from them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Hebrews 12:1. For those of you who are familiar with the Old Testament, who are some of your favorite legends of the faith? Why?
2. Josh discussed four ways many people respond to trials: they avoid them at all costs, they get angry, they assume the worst, they give up. Have you experienced any of these when walking through trials? If so, share your story with the group.
3. Read Daniel 3:16-18. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego expressed their faith and trust in God, regardless of whether or not God chose to save them. How often do we tie our faith in God to His ability to answer our prayers and give us what we want? Why is this so? What damage does this do to our faith over time?
4. Walk through the Four Lessons We Can Learn (message notes). Which one stuck out to you and impacted you and why?
5. Talk through a current trial (fiery furnace) that you are walking through. How have you seen Jesus in the midst of the fire with you? How is your response to the trial showcasing God's glory to others?

NEXT STEP

Who is someone you know that is currently walking through a trial? How can you as a group be the hands and feet of Jesus to them and walk through the fire with them?

For more information (training and support) on how to start a small group, contact steve.lizzio@cbcva.org



CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019
WEEK 2: ANOTHER IN THE FIRE
DANIEL 3:1-30

4 LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO

1. Your _____ gives you a platform to speak _____ to power.
2. Trials are not always a sign of God's _____ or _____.
3. Sometimes God will choose not to _____ us from the fire so that our _____ through the fire can showcase the glory of God.
4. Instead of asking God to _____ us from the fire, start _____ with us in the fire.

Bonus Content

Sunday (This Handout) - 7 Questions on Daniel 3:17-18 and Discussion Questions for this message
Monday (Blog) - 4 Harmful Ways We Respond to Trials in Our Lives
Wednesday (Blog) - 4 Powerful Lessons We Can Learn from Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

For meaningful conversation on this content, join my Facebook Group (Josh Daffern Digital) at:
[facebook.com/groups/joshdaffern](https://www.facebook.com/groups/joshdaffern)

7 QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER SCRIPTURE UNDERSTANDING

Daniel 3:17-18

joshdaffern.com

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Daniel 3:17-18

1. WHAT DID IT MEAN TO THE ORIGINAL READERS?

If you start with today you're twenty centuries too late.

These three men replied with firmness to King Nebuchadnezzar's threat of execution by fire for refusing to bow down to his golden image. Although no doubt existed in the minds of these three about the ability of their God to deliver them, they humbly accepted the fact that God does not always choose to intervene miraculously in human circumstances, even on behalf of his servants. These men would have known the stories of God's miraculous delivery of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. They would have been witness to the miraculous events recorded in Daniel 2. Their belief in God's sovereignty was never in question. God could choose to save them if He so desired.

But they also understood that they had no control nor even full knowledge of God's sovereign choice. In His divine wisdom, God might choose to allow these three men to die. If so, from their perspective, it wouldn't be from God's inability to save them but from His sovereign choice not to save Him. Their view of God was much larger than a small-minded, self-focused view of God where God existed to meet the material and comfort needs of His people. They knew that God's plans were much bigger than them and much more important than their lives. If God chose to allow these three men to die to serve a greater purpose, they were at peace with that. But they would not dishonor their God by bowing down to a golden idol, even if that meant death.

HEBREW WORD OF THE WEEK

אֵינִי ('î-tay,) is an ancient idiom that has puzzled translators for centuries. Read literally, it is translated, "If our God exists, He will deliver us ... But if He does not exist." This would make their belief in God's existence dependent on His ability to save them. The key is that this phrase is used previously in verse 15 with Nebuchadnezzar's ultimatum. These men aren't questioning the existence of God but are utilizing the language of the ultimatum against them to express their firm belief in God, regardless of the outcome.

2. WHAT'S THE CONTEXT? *Scripture without context makes no sense.*

The context of Daniel is a period in which the Israelites had been judged by God and condemned to live in exile in Babylon because of their continued disobedience. But just because God had allowed them to be overtaken didn't mean that God was absent or not moving among His people. On the contrary, God used the testimonies of these three men and Daniel, another Jew living in Babylon, to proclaim His glory to the mightiest nations in the earth at that time. The immediate cause for this crisis in Daniel 3 was the fact that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were continually promoted in the kingdom and their enemies were looking for an opportunity to get rid of them. Nebuchadnezzar's golden image seemed like the perfect opportunity.

3. WHAT TIMELESS TRUTHS ARE THERE?

Since the Word doesn't change it still matters today.

- Your excellence in what you do and how you live gives you a platform to speak truth to power.
- Trials are not always a sign of God's absence or punishment.
- Sometimes God will choose not to deliver us from trials so that our testimony through trials can showcase the glory of God.

5. HOW DOES IT APPLY TODAY? *Information without application becomes stagnation.*

- When we struggle to comprehend God's plan or God's goodness when walking through trials, is it perhaps because we have too narrow and self-focused of a view of God?
- Instead of always asking God to remove us from trials, start looking for Jesus with us in the trial and seek how you might showcase God's glory in the midst of your trial.

4. WHERE ELSE IN SCRIPTURE DOES IT SAY THIS? *The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture.*

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
Colossians 3:23-24

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
Matthew 10:28

6. HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE THE WAY I LIVE IN COMMUNITY? *The Bible comes alive in me when I live it in community.*

- How often do Christians have a narrow, self-focused view of God where He exists only to meet our needs? Have you ever fallen into that false view of God before?
- What's a trial (blazing furnace) that you're currently walking through, one that God has not yet delivered you from? How is this trial giving you the opportunity to showcase God's glory?

7. HOW CAN MY LIFE GET BETTER BECAUSE OF THESE VERSES? *If I trust God and step in faith, what kind of life will God create?*

A showcase is a glass case used to proudly and visibly display something valuable within. When we express the confidence of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, when we walk willingly into the fire by refusing to dishonor God, we are a brilliant showcase of God's glory to the world. Without the hope of eternity these verses lose their power. If this life was all that there was, we would all hold onto life no matter the cost. But because of eternity, we can gladly and joyfully walk through trials and even into eternity glorifying God, because on the other side awaits eternal life and heavenly rewards. If we hold to the truth of these verses, our temporal life may not improve but our eternal life will be that much more glorious.