

DANIEL 3
THE FIERY FURNACE

1. Icebreaker

Example: What situations or circumstances in life do you find yourself most confident? In what situations do you lose confidence or lack it?

2. Opening Prayer

Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

3. Tell the Story

Non-obligatory outline to help prepare for the “storying” of the scripture reviewed during LG

Nebuchadnezzar builds a large image of gold, demanding all to worship it (1-7). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego refuse, and are thrown into a fiery furnace. Yet they are saved by God (8-25), prompting King Nebuchadnezzar to praise their God as the Most High (26-30).

v.1 The king made the image of gold in defiance of the prophecy that his kingdom would one day fall to the Medo-Persian empire.

v.13 Revelation 12:13-17.

v.19 The Great Tribulation will be worse than any plague or calamity the world has ever seen (Matthew 24:21).

v.25 The three Hebrew men knew that God was able to protect them (v.17). The only things that burned were the ropes binding them.

v.26-29 King Nebuchadnezzar changed his attitude toward God (v.15).

v.30 Daniel isn't mentioned at all in this chapter. He would never have bowed to the image, so we have to conclude that he wasn't there.

4. Read the Story (Daniel 3)

Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to

5. Breaking it Down

Questions to be used (as appropriate based upon meeting dynamics) to facilitate discussion and understanding

5.1 What did Nebuchadnezzar set up in the plain of Dura? (1)

- A golden image, 60 cubits (90 feet) by 6 cubits (9 feet)

5.2 What punishment did he threaten if people did not worship it? (6)

- To be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace

5.3 Who was accused of not worshipping the gold image? (12)

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego (Daniel's friends)

5.4 When threatened to be cast in the fiery furnace, what did they respond? (17-18)

- The God whom they serve will deliver them from the king's hand
- But if not, even so they would not serve his gods or worship the gold image

5.5 As the three men were being cast into the fiery furnace, what happened? (20-22)

- The fire killed the mighty men as they threw them into the furnace.

5.6 What did Nebuchadnezzar see as he looked into the fiery furnace? (24-25)

- Four men loose, walking and unhurt, the fourth "like a son of the gods"

5.7 Who might have been that fourth man in the furnace? (25,28)

- An angel, or a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ?

5.8 When the three men came out of the furnace, what was their condition? (27)

- Their hair was not singed, garments were not affected, no smell of fire on them

5.9 What conclusion did the king draw? What did he do for the three men? (29-30)

- There is no other God who can deliver like this
- Promoted them in the province of Babylon

6. Application

Sample questions (as appropriate) to tie to life application

General Reflection:

- 1) What does this passage teach us about God?
- 2) What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- 3) What is a command to obey in this passage? What has God revealed in your life that needs changing? What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Personal Reflection/Application:

1. Nebuchadnezzar commands the people to bow down and worship the golden image. At the heart level, what is worship? Is it only music at church on Sunday mornings? How would you define worship? How do you demonstrate your worship to God?
2. Daniel's friends have a conviction to not to eat the king's food and not to bow down to the image. How and where do you develop your own convictions?
3. Daniel's friends saw that God was worthy of their worship, even if they were thrown into the fire. We may not face a fiery furnace but we do have to choose each day who or what we will worship. Based on your schedule, finances, decisions, etc., is God displayed in your life as worthy of your worship? What can you do differently to show that God is worthy of your worship?

4. These three young men were persecuted with the punishment of death for worshiping the one true God. Most of us have not faced a death sentence like Daniel's friends, but many Christians around the world do face these situations. A good first step is realizing that for most of church history and for most areas in the world, the church faces great persecution. Living in America we are so blessed to enjoy the freedoms that we have as Christians. How can we help the persecuted church and its members who are living in life-threatening environments around the globe?

7. Prayer Requests

*Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the LifeGroup.
What happens in LifeGroup, Stays in LifeGroup*

8. Closing & Prayer

DANIEL 3
THE FIERY FURNACE

1. Icebreaker

2. Opening Prayer

Consider volunteering for prayer.

3. Tell the Story

Consider volunteering to Read the Story at your next meeting.

4. Read the Story (Daniel 3)

Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to

5. Breaking it Down

Review the scripture through question, discussion.

5.1 What did Nebuchadnezzar set up in the plain of Dura? (1)

5.2 What punishment did he threaten if people did not worship it? (6)

5.3 Who was accused of not worshipping the gold image? (12)

5.4 When threatened to be cast in the fiery furnace, what did they respond? (17-18)

5.5 As the three men were being cast into the fiery furnace, what happened? (20-22)

5.6 What did Nebuchadnezzar see as he looked into the fiery furnace? (24-25)

5.7 Who might have been that fourth man in the furnace? (25,28)

5.8 When the three men came out of the furnace, what was their condition? (27)

5.9 What conclusion did the king draw? What did he do for the three men? (29-30)

5 Application

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

2) What does this passage teach us about mankind?

3) What is a command to obey in this passage? What has God revealed in your life that needs changing? What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

6 Prayer Requests

Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the LifeGroup. What happens in LifeGroup, Stays in LifeGroup

7 Closing & Prayer

Don't forget – when are you meeting next? Who is facilitating? Who is Telling the Story?