



Daniel 3

1. Read Daniel 3:1-18 and Matthew 26: 31-35. Describe Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's response to king Nebuchadnezzar. Where did the courage and faith come from be like that? Describe Peter's response when asked if he was one of Jesus disciples. Why do you think he responded the way he did? Why didn't he respond like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? What can we do to become like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
2. Examine the Outreach Temperature Card (next page). Where do you think Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were on this card? Where are you? Does it matter? How can you improve? Share among yourselves.

OUTREACH TEMPERATURE CARD

Mark Johnston

Date: November 5, 2021

My Current Outreach Temperature:



Recent Progress in Relationships or Spiritual Conversations:

<p>Unchurch People in my life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends • Relatives • Acquaintances • Neighbors • Colleagues 	<p>BLESS Practices I will pursue to help encourage them to take <u>another</u> step toward Jesus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin with Prayer: for and with unchurched people • Listen: ASK QUESTIONS, including about their spiritual story • Eat: Show hospitality and build the relationship • Serve and Ask for Help: Care for them, let them care for me • Share my Story on the Good News of Jesus: Invite Response
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3. Describe the character and life circumstances that lead to the courage and character of Shadrach, Meshach and Abdenego.
4. Discuss among yourselves how we should live to prepare for the fiery furnaces in our lives.
5. Share an experience where you were being tested or in a trial and know God was with you.

Daniel Chapter 3 Message Slides

Nebuchadnezzar's Edict:

Daniel 3:1-7

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. And whoever does not fall down and worship shall

immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.” Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Accused

Daniel 3:8-12

⁸Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. ⁹They declared^[b] to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. ¹¹And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego before Nebuchadnezzar:

Daniel 3:13-18

¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good.^[c] But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷If 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.^[c] ¹⁸But 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.”

On the mount of Olives, On the night before Jesus was betrayed he told all the disciples, “You will all fall away because of me this night.”

Matthew 26:33-35

Peter responds, “³³ ..., “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” ³⁴Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”³⁵ Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.

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Character and Circumstances of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

1. They were among the youths (13-15 years of age) of the royal family and nobility taken from Jerusalem to Babylon and raised for three years in the King's palace.
2. They were likely made eunuchs.
3. They were immersed completely in the culture of Babylon, the language, literature and ways of the Babylonians
4. They were given new names after the gods of Babylon
5. They resolved to not defile themselves and remain devoted to God.
6. They came from a culture and community of devotion to God, in prayer and diet and in all their behavior
7. Early on they faced execution after no one could reveal to Nebuchadnezzar his dream and interpretation
8. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego at Daniel's request after asking Nebuchadnezzar prayed that the Lord would reveal the dream and its meaning and the Lord did to Daniel.
9. They were tested continually before the fiery furnace
10. Brought glory to God through their courage and faithfulness

Character and Circumstances of CFC

1. Daily prayer and devotion
2. Attend woman's and men's Bible study
3. Involvement and commitment in a community group where you encourage each other, pray together and hold each other accountable in love and caring
4. Faithful attendance and priority in attendance to worship services
5. Serving in the community or outside the community in sharing God's love and the Good news
6. Faithfully enduring our daily tests
7. Bringing glory to God

Luke 22: 31-32

³¹“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you,^u that he might sift you like wheat, ³²but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

Daniel 3:19-23

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics,^u their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ²²Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace. ²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”

1. Commitment and single mindedness to God in devotion and separation from the world is essential
2. Don't underestimate the importance of community in achieving #1
3. We will all be tested in the fiery furnace
4. God is with us