



Small Group Discussion Guide

October 22, 2017

Sermon Title:

"Life In and Around the Furnace"

Sermon Text: Daniel 3

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:10-13

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting, and then have someone offer a brief prayer for God to meet with your group.*

Getting Started: What is the hottest you have ever been? What is the largest fire you have ever seen? Or, have you ever been around a large industrial type furnace? What was it like?

Discussion:

1. **Things Change** (vs 1-6). Life is full of changes. Many of them are beyond our control and often are not positive. What are some of the "environmental" changes taking place around you? What other personal changes are you currently experiencing? How are these changes impacting your life/faith?
2. **Antagonists Exist** (vs 8-12). Why is it unreasonable to believe everyone will like us, that everyone would want what is best for us? Are there other examples from Scripture that reinforce this point? How have others challenged you in life/faith?
3. **Live More** (vs 13-16). We naturally want to "defend" ourselves, but how can our efforts at verbal self-advocacy create greater problems? How does the principle "live more" speak to greater character/witness? Did the pastor mean we should never speak about wrongs done to others or self?
4. **God Can** (v 17). Miracles happen. The Bible contains story upon story of God's great acts. Do you have any personal experience with God doing the unexplainable? Share a little about your story.
5. **Stand Resolved** (v 18). "Even if he does not," what powerful words. Have you been, or do you know someone, who has been disillusioned by an answer to prayer that God did not answer as hoped or by a situation he did not prevent? Why is this perspective expressed by the three Hebrew children so important? In our present day, how do we develop more of this attitude for the benefit our collective and personal faith?

6. **Look Around** (vs 24-25). Individually, the three were not alone, they had each other. More importantly, there was a fourth presence. How important is the support of other believers as you experience life's "fiery" moments? What tangible contributions do they make? How can you see the "fourth" presence, God's presence? What does God do to let us know he is with us?
7. **Things Change** (vs 26-30). How Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego lived around and in the furnace changed a king and a kingdom. The grace and faith with which we face our furnaces has an impact. Can you offer an example?
8. Life changes and those changes come in both positive and negative forms. Which point spoke to you the most about life in and near the furnace? Why?

Closing: Close *by sharing pray requests.*

Pray for one another and for the requests that were shared.

Go SHARE JESUS!