

Dave Cover | Daniel 3 Sermon Discussion Participants Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To consider how God is both sovereignly in control over circumstances AND uses people to bring about His glory and the flourishing for people.

Icebreaker: Where do you think your city is flourishing?

Discussion:

Transition: Chapter 3 narrows in on Daniels three friends who are serving inside Babylon with him. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are now thrust into a precarious position as they come to a head with King Nebuchadnezzar's orders to worship a golden statue along with everyone else in Babylon. God continues to highlight aspects of the bigger story we are living in, juxtaposed to the various cultural stories our world wants us to believe and live.

Read:

[Daniel 3:1-2](#)

¹ King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ² He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.

1. What cultural pressures or values are you most prone to adopt?

Dave highlighted how King Nebuchadnezzar wanted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to live publicly one way, while still being able to hold onto their faith in God privately. This temptation, to worship publicly that which our culture would want us to, while privately espousing belief and trust in Jesus is still enticing today.

2. What do you notice from Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in their response to King Nebuchadnezzar's request in verses 16-18?

THE **crossing** **small groups**

3. In what ways is the truth from Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego encouraging to you and/or challenging for you?

Dave talked about the importance of having a “we” or “us” as we explore a relationship with Jesus. He said, “As a church community in this culture, we must be a place where everyone’s welcome, nobody’s perfect, and somebody cares; a place to belong. A place to be friends.” He was highlighting one of the truths that while following Jesus in our day is fraught with difficulty, pressure and intimidation, having a “we” brings strength. It’s one of God’s proven ways to work in the lives of his image bearers, other people.

4. Dave asked two questions at the end of his sermon, “Do you have Jesus following friends? Are you a Jesus following friend for someone?”
How can we as a small group be a more intentional Jesus following community?

Read:

[Romans 12:1-2, 4-8](#)

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

5. What do we learn from Paul’s encouragement to the Romans about how to worship God faithfully amidst cultural pressures?
6. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego could confidently stand in the love of their father, and trust in His provision over their lives, even if sent to the fiery furnace. How are we

THE **crossing** **small groups**

secure in the bigger story even if we don't receive the deliverance we want in the smaller story?

Sharing and Prayer:

As we consider the God's sovereign ways and our response as a community, it leads us to yield and give all aspects of our lives to God.

Consider breaking into smaller groups, to share the ways you are feeling the most pressure and praying for each other considering this.

Other possible scriptures to reflect on as a group or privately throughout the week:

On Community –

1 Cor 12: 12-13

On deliverance, God's sovereignty –

1 John 4:4

Galatians 5:1

Psalms 32:7

Psalms 34:4

1 John 5:4-5

2 Samuel 22:2-3