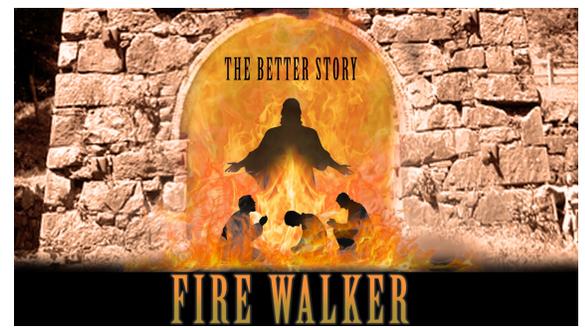




Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Fire Walker

Introduction: The Lord allowed King Nebuchadnezzar to besiege Jerusalem and take captive some of the Israelite nobility. He instructed his men to gather the best and brightest of the young men to serve in his court. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were among those captured. The Lord used these four men to transform a pagan culture.

Text: Daniel 1-3

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Have you ever been in an environment where you were one of the only outspoken Christians in the group? How did it make you feel? Were you ever pressured to compromise your convictions? How did you respond?
2. Daniel 1:2: What does this tell you about the sovereignty of God over nations and kings?
3. Daniel 1:3-7. These men were the top of the class—the best of the best. They were thrown into a culture that was opposite of their own. They were taught subjects, beliefs, and languages they did not know. The pressure was put on them to conform to a new worldview and to forsake their own. In what ways do you see the similarities in today's culture?
4. What was the key for Daniel and the others to not compromise? (Daniel 1:8)
5. How did God bless these men? How does this encourage you to stand strong in your faith?
6. Daniel 1:17. What does this say about how God can help you with understanding in school/college/work?
7. Daniel 2—Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and no one can tell him his dream. He threatens to kill all the wise men. Daniel says that God can help him. What does Daniel do? Read Daniel 2:17-19?
8. Why is it important to have godly friends you can pray with?
9. Daniel 2:49—Daniel did not forget about his friends. He got his three friends a promotion, because they were as much part of Daniel's success as he was. Who, in your life, has helped you get where you are today?
10. Daniel 3—Nebuchadnezzar makes a huge statue of himself and orders for everyone to bow down. The penalty for refusing would be death through fire. Why do you think that the three Hebrew boys refused to bow down?
11. The world is always wanting us to conform and bow down to false gods. Write/discuss the pressure that Christians face to bow down to the things of this world?
12. They refused to bow, and the king gave them another chance. Read Dan. 3:13-15. What was Nebuchadnezzar's attitude, demand, and question?
13. Daniel 3:16-18 Write/Discuss their response to the king. What is their attitude and response to the king?
14. Daniel 3:24-25—Jesus shows up in the midst of the fire! He is the "Fire Walker!" He delivers them from the fire. How does Jesus still walk with his people in the middle of the fires of life?
15. Daniel 3:29—What was the new law of the land?

Think About it:

God is the one and only true God. The story of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is a favorite Bible story that has touched lives for generations. It shows us how to stand strong in the middle of a pagan culture. It tells us how God can use faithfulness to change a culture. The Lord can give you wisdom in things other than scripture. He can use you in the work place to make a gospel impact. Jesus will never leave his children. He will walk with us through the fire!

Moving Forward:

Take time to pray this week for strength and confidence. See the place where God has blessed you, not as a curse, but as an opportunity to bring the gospel to those around you. Work hard, be honest, live above reproach, and never compromise in your faith, even if it means being "thrown in the fire."