



09

DANIEL 3:14-27

EVEN IF



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

We have so many opportunities to go along with the crowd. We might watch a movie we don't really want to see just because everyone else does. We might go to a party that makes us uncomfortable because we want a place to belong. In big ways and small ways, our lives are filled with choices. Not all of those choices will put our faith on the line, but many of them will. Many of them will mean honoring God or not. As followers of Christ, our faith will often mean that we don't blend in or go with the crowd. We might have to make a different choice and risk sticking out. Daniel's friends had to make the ultimate choice of either following God even to death or denying God to save themselves. They demonstrated that believers are called to be faithful at all costs.



CENTRAL **truth**

Believers are called to remain faithful at all costs.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE DANIEL 3:17

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

DANIEL 3:14-18

DWELL

In chapter 2, King Nebuchadnezzar had honored Daniel, his God, and his friends after Daniel successfully recounted and interpreted the king's troubling dream. Now in chapter 3, however, we see that the king is back to his old ways. He is still clinging to his pride and his power, and has constructed a golden idol for his citizens to worship. If they do not, by law they will be thrown into a fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego know that their life is on the line when they refuse to follow the king's law and continue to serve only their God, trusting that if it is His will, He can and will save them from the fire.

← Why was the king so furious that the men would not worship the idol, but only their own God?

↪ How does God give you strength to follow Him and avoid the pressure to just go along with the culture around you?

MEMORIZE

Use a phone or computer to record yourself reading Daniel 3:17 aloud. Listen to this recording throughout the week.

PRAY

Ask God for the faith to trust Him when choosing to obey Him feels risky or dangerous.

day 2

DANIEL 3:19-23

DWELL

By refusing to follow the king's commands, the men weren't just being stubborn. They were proclaiming that even though they served the king in an official capacity, he did not have the ultimate authority over their lives. That honor was reserved only for the God of Israel. This enraged the king so much that he decided their punishment for disobedience should be even greater than usual. Although you most likely have the privilege to worship freely without fear of death, we should not forget that around the world, faithful brothers and sisters choose to follow Christ despite knowing that they risk imprisonment or even death for their faith.



What do we learn about the way that the king ruled His kingdom? How is this different from the way Jesus rules?



How can you follow God courageously the way these men did? How do you find this courage?

MEMORIZE

Write Daniel 3:17 on a note card and place it in a folder or binder where you will see it frequently. Read it to yourself each time you see it this week.

PRAY

Pray for Christians around the world who are arrested or killed for their faith every day.

day 3

DANIEL 3:24-27

DWELL

Things didn't go the way that the king had planned. Not only were the men not injured or even touched by the fire in the slightest, but a fourth mysterious figure appeared with them among the flames. What's more, none of the four were bound, even though the king had the men bound tightly. God used the steadfast faith of these men to show the king and his counselors that God was faithful and mighty to protect those who served Him. This does not mean that God always prevents harm or hardship for those who follow Him. But it does mean that when we choose to remain faithful, He can and will use our faithfulness to display His glory and power to the world.



What do these verses tell you about God's authority and power?



How has God used you and your faithfulness to demonstrate His love and glory to others?

MEMORIZE

Break Daniel 3:17 into 3-5 smaller parts and try to recite a different part to yourself from memory throughout each day.

PRAY

Praise God that even when we are challenged by earthly powers and authorities, we can trust Him to be King over all.

day 4

DANIEL

3:28-30

DWELL



Why did the king issue his decree?
What impressed him about God and His followers?



How can these verses help you talk about your faith in God with other people?

God's display of power in the fiery furnace impressed the king so much that he made a new decree—everyone in Babylon was now strictly forbidden from saying anything against Israel's God. It's possible that the decree was the king's attempt to appease and avoid possible retaliation from a God who could perform such mighty miracles to save His followers. The faith of these men and the resulting miracle was not enough to turn the king away from following his own nation's gods, but it did show him that the God who Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego followed was powerful, worthy of honor and praise.

MEMORIZE

Draw Daniel 3:17 on a piece of paper using colored pencils or markers, using a different color for the most important words and phrases. Hang it in your room or locker.

PRAY

Praise God for working in ways that can make His glory and power obvious to even His enemies.

day 5

HEBREWS

11:32-40

DWELL

The story of the fiery furnace is just one example of followers who have put their lives on the line to stay faithful to God. The author of the Book of Hebrews gives us many more examples of times when God's people were put to the test by enemy powers. The writer of Hebrews concludes by pointing out that these people had commendable faith, even though their hope of a Messiah—Jesus Christ—was still in the future. How much more should we respond to God with faith and humility now that Jesus has come to show us a perfect example of life in God's kingdom?



How did faith give these men and women courage to follow God no matter what it cost them?



How does the promise of life in God's kingdom motivate you to act when your faith is challenged?

MEMORIZE

Practice reciting Daniel 3:17 aloud from memory with a friend or family member. They can prompt you with the next word if you need help remembering.

PRAY

Thank God for giving us the promise of eternal life in His kingdom.