



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

October 27, 2024 – Reformation Sunday
Life a Life of Courageous Witness
On Fire for Jesus!

Daniel 3:16-28

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." ¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. ²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty." ²⁵ He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." ²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. ²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

1. What does it mean to be "on fire" for something? Tell the group what it is that you're on fire for.

2. "Live like there's no tomorrow." "Live like you'll live forever." Agree or disagree and why? These two phrases are saying the same thing.
3. As officials in the king's government, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego must have been aware of the king's plans for his 90-foot golden statue. Imagine how they must have "sweated" over the decision that lay ahead of them. Relate a time from your own life when you knew a "day of reckoning" was coming – a time when you would need to stand with Jesus or disown him. How did you feel? What did you do to prepare yourself for what lay ahead?
4. What reasons might the three men in our text have offered as to why it would be ok for them to bow down to the king's gods? What reasons do we sometimes offer as to why this is not the time or place to give a clear, courageous witness to God's Word and will? Why do these excuses carry no weight before God?
5. Agree or disagree and why? Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego put us to shame.
6. How does the knowledge that we are forever alive in Christ inspire us to be bold and courageous witnesses? What does it mean when we still fail to stand up for him?
7. God did not spare Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the horror of being tossed into the king's blazing furnace, but he brought them through the experience in such a way that they didn't even smell like smoke. How does this truth embolden us to live our faith?
8. What impact may our bold witness have on the unbelievers around us?
9. Memorize Isaiah 43:2 "When you walk through the fire, I will be with you, the flames will not set you ablaze." How can this passage help you navigate the week ahead?