**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

***CONNECT:***

* *What is the most impressive piece of architecture you have ever seen? Where was it located? What made it so special?*
* *Have you ever been asked to do something you were uncomfortable doing? How did you respond?*

***DIG DEEPER: Daniel 3:1-30***

* Read the passage. Summarize what you read. What truths about God do you find in this passage?
* Pay special attention to words and phrases that are repeated throughout this text. What are they? How does Daniel 2:20-21 help you understand Nebuchadnezzar’s motives?
* How do the Chaldean’s address Nebuchadnezzar (3:9-10)? How do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego address him (3:16)? What does this teach us about these men and their faith in God?
* Fire is used throughout scripture to define trials and refinement of Christian character. Read the following scriptures and discuss how this challenges or encourages you in your walk with Jesus. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 1 Peter 1:7:1-10; Luke 3:16. How do these verses help you further understand Daniel 3.

***DISCUSS:***

* How do you identify with the idolatrous condition of the king? Are there any monuments in your life that you have built up and placed above God?
* Reflect on your life as a Christian. Have you ever faced a furnace, albeit a much less hot one than in Daniel 3, in order to remain faithful? Have you ever turned back?

* What is the most difficult in your life at the moment? Are you tempted to see it as judgement? What would change if you viewed it as refinement, as proving the genuineness of your faith?
* What is one intentional step that you will commit to take as a result of what you have learned from this study?

FAITH & THE FIERY FURNACE

Daniel 3:1-4:3

Wave Church SD | Sept. 24, 2017

**Daniel 3:1-7 (ESV)** *King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon….” 7Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

**Daniel 3:8-12 (ESV)** *8Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews….12There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” 13Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king 14Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? 15Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my**hands?” 16Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”*

**COURAGEOUS FAITH IS A RESULT OF A TESTED FAITH**

**James 1:1-2 (ESV)** *2Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

**THE 4 TRAITS TRIALS PRODUCE IN US**

* **OBEDIENCE - JOHN 8:31-32, JOHN 10:27, HEB. 5:7-9**

***Daniel 3:19-25 (ESV)*** *19Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. 20And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. 21Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. 22Because the king’s order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace. 24Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” 25He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”*

* **PERSPECTIVE - COLOSSIANS 3:2**
* **CONFIDENCE & COURAGE - 1 CHRON. 28:20, DEUT. 31:6**

**Daniel 3:26-30 (ESV)** *26Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. 27And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. 28Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 29Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.” 30Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.*