**Small Group notes on Daniel 3 – Crazy faith Ch 8**

***Please tailor these questions for your own group – I don’t anticipate you doing all 15! You could focus on just one section or choose a couple of questions from each.***

**Starter question:**

What is the hottest thing you have ever been near?

**Study**

This is a very familiar incident and a long chapter to read. Instead of reading it out loud right through you could:

1. Get people to read it quietly and then pick out what they see as key verses
2. Summarise the chapter without reading it – and then read particular verses as you go through the study below
3. Watch a video of the story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pc3IfXVwR5w>

Q1. What is your immediate reaction to this incident in the life of Daniel’s friends?

There are 3 key phrases in this chapter which summarise its message:

Phrase 1: What god will be able to rescue you from my hand? V 15

Phrase 2: God is able to save us but even if he does not… v 18

Phrase 3: didn’t we throw in 3 men? Look I see 4 men walking… v 25

**Phrase 1: What god will be able to rescue you from my hand? V 15**

Read v 13-15

Q2.What does this incident tell us about the sort of person King Nebuchadnezzar was?

Q3. What sort of God did the Hebrew 3 believe in?

The Hebrew 3 understood that there was a bigger picture at stake here - It’s all about God- it’s not about me!

Q4. Can you give examples of times when you’ve thought it was all about you?

Q5. How do we deal with situations when we feel hurt, or offended etc but are also aware that in the big scheme of things it’s not that important? Does that mean that our feelings don’t matter?

Quote from Viv Thomas*: “Many Christians appear to live such weird lives. On the one hand they have a huge God, they live in a world of earth shattering concepts; and yet they live tight little lives which have no more than an occasional fleeting reference to the God they know. If we proclaim that God owns the world, its past its present and future, and cannot live with some sense of abandon and freedom which follow on from this claim, then we start to live in a split world… of hypocrisy”*

Q6. To what extent does this quote resonate with you?

Q7. In what ways might you be challenged to live with more abandon and freedom?

**Phrase 2: God is able to save us but even if he does not… v 18**

Look up Habakkuk 3:17-18, Job 13:15, which demonstrate the same trust.

Q8. The Hebrew 3 showed an unconditional faith. What did their faith depend on?

Q9. Can you describe times when you have been tempted to have an if…then faith?

Q10. How do you reconcile these verses with promises of God’s blessing?

Q11. What helps you remain faithful if God “does not rescue you”?

**Phrase 3: didn’t we throw in 3 men? Look I see 4 men walking… v 25**

Q12. In what ways have you experienced God walking with you in the fire?

Q13. What enabled the Hebrew 3 to have a faith like this?

Q14. What are the small steps you have been encouraged to take to strengthen your faith?

Q15. How is your faith different from when you first became a Christian?

**Worship**

Possible songs to use for a time of worship:

**Laura Story Blessings:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5Opv5AZT3w**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5Opv5AZT3w)

**King of Kings- Gods bigger picture:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of5IcFWiEpg**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of5IcFWiEpg)

**There is a truth- Jesus walks with us:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEbQswNB6Wc**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEbQswNB6Wc)