SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Daniel

Chapter 3

Faith Under Fire

MEMORY VERSE · DANIEL 3:17–18

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Daniel 3

When the music played, the whole empire bowed, and three young men stayed standing. This week we watch them trust God's power, surrender to His will, and meet the Son of God in the fire. Whatever furnace you are facing, you are not in it alone.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The Complete Study, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Daniel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

The Golden Image

READ · DANIEL 3:1–7

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How big was the image (v1), who was summoned to stand before it (vv2–3), and what was the penalty for anyone who would not bow (v6)?

REFLECT

Everyone bowed the moment they heard "all kinds of music" (v7). What pressure in your world makes going along feel easy and normal, on the yard, at work, with old friends, on a screen?

REFLECT

Nebuchadnezzar made an image that was gold from top to bottom (v1), as if his kingdom would never pass. What golden image are you most tempted to bow to, approval, comfort, money, a substance, and what does it promise you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name the one golden image you are most tempted by, tell God about it honestly, and ask Jesus for strength to stay standing today.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 3:17–18)

DAY 2 OF 5

A Second Chance to Bow

READ · DANIEL 3:8–15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What charges did the Chaldeans bring against the three men in verse 12, and what did the king offer them and ask them in verse 15?

REFLECT

They were reported by men who noticed they would not bow (vv8–12). How do you handle it when people see that you live differently, and what helps you not hide?

REFLECT

The king offered them a second chance to bow (v15). When temptation comes back around, softer and more reasonable the second time, what makes it hard to say no again?

RESPOND — TODAY

Have a plan ready if temptation circles back today: one verse to say, one man to call, one place to go.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 3:17–18)

DAY 3 OF 5

But Even If He Does Not

READ · DANIEL 3:16–18

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read their answer in verses 16–18 slowly. What do they say God is able to do, what do they say He will do, and what will they do even if He does not?

REFLECT

They said "our God whom we serve is able" (v17), sure of His power without telling Him how to use it. What are you asking God for right now, and how would you pray it with "even if He does not" (v18) in your heart?

REFLECT

Their faith rested on God Himself, not on getting a certain outcome. When God has not done what you asked in the past, how has that shaped the way you trust Him now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write a short prayer about the thing you most want God to do. End it with "But even if He does not" (v18), and finish the sentence in your own words.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 3:17–18)

DAY 4 OF 5

Four Men in the Fire

READ · DANIEL 3:19–25

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the king order done to the furnace and to the three men (vv19–21), what happened to the soldiers (v22), and what did the king see when he looked in (v25)?

REFLECT

They fell in "still tied up" (v23) and were seen "loosed and walking about" (v25). What is binding you right now, and how might God use even a fire in your life to burn off the ropes?

REFLECT

God did not keep them out of the furnace; the fourth man met them inside it (v25). Where do you most need to know that Jesus is with you in the fire, not just watching from outside?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray for one man you know who is in a furnace today, a sentence, a diagnosis, a relapse, a broken home, and send him a word that he is not alone.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 3:17–18)

DAY 5 OF 5

Not Even the Smell of Fire

READ · DANIEL 3:26–30

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the king call the three men in verse 26, and what did the officials find when they looked them over (v27)?

REFLECT

The same officials who bowed in verse 7 found that "the smell of fire" had not even come upon them (v27). What story of God bringing you through could you tell, so other men can see what He does?

REFLECT

The king admitted "there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way" (v29). What has Jesus delivered you from, and how does the cross show that He went into the fire for you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one person today, in a sentence or two, something God has brought you through.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 3:17–18)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Their small stand over food in chapter 1 prepared them for the furnace here. What small, daily faithfulness is God using to get you ready for bigger tests?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The three men stood and answered together (vv12, 16). How can the men in this group stand with each other when one of us is the only one in the room not bowing?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Faithfulness did not keep them out of the fire (v21). How do you keep trusting God when doing the right thing still costs you?

MY PRAYER

Most High God, You walk with Your people in the fire, so today I ask You…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · DANIEL 3:17–18

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."