

- Strangers in a strange land

These notes have been put together to be used in Life Groups alongside the Sunday teaching at Wavertree.

These notes relate to Jack's talk on Daniel 3, you may want to start by sharing what stood out to you from the talk.

Read Daniel 3 together

STARTER: 5 minutes

Share a time you felt under pressure from those around you at work / school / socially etc. What made it difficult?

We live in a culture that is constantly pushing us to conform. That can be obvious pressure in certain moments, or a slow compromise over time.

God asks us to have no God before Him, yet there are so many things that our hearts can 'bow' to, like an idol, without us realising: Success, comfort, money, approval (people-pleasing), technology, distraction, self.

Faithfulness Starts Before the Fire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood firm because: they had already decided who they belonged to and their faith was formed before the crisis. You don't become faithful in the fire—you prepare for it beforehand.

REFLECTION: 10 minutes

Many of us have made courageous choices for God. Sometimes we see successes, like Daniel 2:49 when the young men are promoted. Yet our faithfulness does not mean we avoid storms like the fire in Daniel 3:15.

Sit quietly, breathe slowly, reflect on your courageous choices and the cost involved, **hear God's 'Well done'**. What else is God saying?

DISCUSSION : 20 minutes

Consider all or some of these questions, depending on which feel most relevant to your group.

1. What idols tend to compete for first place in your life?
2. Are there any “subtle compromises” you’ve noticed in your faith recently?
3. What does it mean for you personally to “decide who you belong to”? And how can we build faith and put down ‘deep roots’ before difficult moments come?
4. What does it look like for you to stand for God in your current context?
5. How do you respond to the idea: “Even if God doesn’t...”? Have you experienced God moving miraculously or being with you through a difficult season?

PRAYER: 10 minutes

Take some time to work through these 4 prayers together

Surrender *“God, show me anything I’ve placed before You. Help me put You first again.”*

Courage *“Give me courage to stand for You—even when it costs me.”*

Trust *“Help me trust You—not just when things go well, but even if You don’t answer the way I expect.”*

Presence *“Remind me that You are with me in every situation—especially in the ‘fire.’”*