



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: I Choose: Week 7 (November 12, 2023)

*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). Step 1: **GATHER** with your family or group. Step 2: **REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. Step 3: **PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

Share a time when you compromised in order to get along with someone. When is it okay to compromise to get along or fit in? When is it not okay?

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Daniel 3:1-18; Exodus 20:3-6; James 2:26. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through this scripture before responding to the following questions. What does Daniel tell us to do when facing chaos and possibly death? Reflect on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's experience. What does their situation in Daniel Chapter 3 tell us about God? Have you predetermined your loyalty to Christ regardless of what happens? Is there anything that could turn your heart away from Christ? A bad diagnosis, loss, unanswered prayer? An unjust decision against you? Suffering for your faith? You can bow down to an image or step into your destiny, but you can't do both. Has there been a time when you tried to live both a worldly life and live for God? What was the outcome? What societal images might you be bowing down to and why do think that is? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had the kind of faith that recognized that God was powerful enough to save them, but even if He didn't, honoring Him was the right choice. Would you have made the same choice? What does faith go hand in hand with?

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Daniel 3:19-25; Hebrews 10:23; Proverbs 28:20a. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through this scripture. Why didn't God rescue them before they went into the furnace? Is there a situation in your life you wanted God to intervene before it happened, but He allowed you to go through it anyway? What were the results? Who do you think the fourth person in the fire was? When in your life have you felt and experienced the presence of God the most? How did God reveal His presence to you? Do you believe that God will never leave or forsake you? Do you have a hard time saying: "He is here with me?" Explain. How do you think walking in the furnace affected the faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? How do we grow in our faithfulness? Think of a time when you wanted to quit. What kept you going?

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Daniel 3:26-30. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through this scripture. How did the faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego effect the King? How can making a firm stand for your faith affect those around you? Can we produce faith? How do we get faith? What will be the evidence of a faithful life? What is the difference between faith and faithfulness?

DOING THE WORD

Think about the ways you show your faithfulness to God. Are there things that are getting in the way of your faithfulness? What areas of your life have you not given over to Him? Through spending time in prayer, ask God to make these things clear to you, so that He can grow you in your faithfulness. This week read through and study Hebrews 11 – The Great Chapter of Faithfulness. Close by praying that the message of Daniel would encourage our hearts in these uncertain times and that we would trust Him in all circumstances. Choose Faithfulness!