

## Daniel: Conviction in a World of Compromise Part 3: Even If...

**Objective:** To challenge us to remain faithful to God regardless of whether or not he delivers us from the difficulties that life brings us.

**Read together:**

*Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, 14 and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? 15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"*

*Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."*

**Daniel 3:16-18**

- Have you ever stopped to consider what standing by your convictions costs you? What are the rewards for standing by your convictions?
- Have you ever had your convictions create conflict? If you're comfortable, share the story with your group.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were believed God would deliver them, but they were willing to remain faithful to God EVEN IF He did not. They said, "Our God is able...". Do you believe God is able to handle whatever you are facing? How do you know He is able?
- The three young men in Daniel 3 believed God could deliver them but they were willing to stand firm EVEN IF he did not. Do you have that kind of conviction? What price are you willing to pay to remain faithful to God?
- When our conviction creates costly conflict, it opens the door for God to do something special. Can you think of times when God has done something unexpected or special when you or someone you know chose to remain faithful?
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had made the decision in advance to worship God alone. (See Daniel chapters 1-2). How much difference do you think deciding in advance made when it came time for them to stand firm? What have you pre-decided you will not compromise on?
- Praising and honoring God (worshipping Him) was something Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were choosing to do EVEN IF he did not deliver them. Are you willing to worship and praise God regardless of how your most difficult challenges turn out?

**Final Thought:** God is able to deliver you from whatever challenge, pain or difficulty you are facing. But just because he is able, it doesn't always mean he will. Sometimes he wants to work through our suffering to strengthen our faith and impact others for his glory. Are you willing to stay faithful, EVEN IF...?

