

INTRO & ICE BREAKER

Introduce yourself and answer this: What do you think Nebuchadnezzar's nickname was when he was growing up? "Neb", "Buch", "Chad", "Nezzie", something else?

RECAP & DISCUSSION

This Sunday, Pastor Chris continued our series FAITHFULL, helping us grow and live out our faith in God. When life gets hard, our feelings often drown out our faith. Standing firm in the midst of adversity, not bowing down to other gods or even our own image, and remaining confident in God's ability to rescue us from challenges when we don't feel good about our circumstances, moves us from being "feel-ful" to being faithful. This is demonstrated by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in their faith-filled response to King Nebuchadnezzar after resisting pressure to bow to his golden image.

Discussion:

- Let's spend a few moments sharing what stood out to us from the message on Sunday. What was new or unexpected? What impacted you the most? What did you talk about after service?

Pastor Chris begins by stating that everyone has faith because we all put our trust in people we don't know everyday. Yet, we can still struggle to put our faith in the God who created everything and has demonstrated his love for us. Sometimes we set up and worship our own image and try to be our own god.

Discussion:

- Why is it easier to put our faith in strangers than in God?
- What are some ways we set up images that are all about us?

Despite what we think, life doesn't get easier when we put our faith in Jesus. It often gets more difficult because God uses the challenges we face to help us grow. If we continue to connect with God and his Church when we don't feel like it, we might eventually grow enough to break through the challenge.

Discussion:

- What are some challenges you're currently facing?
- How do your emotions keep you from seeing breakthroughs in those areas?

Have someone read: Daniel 3:12-18

In this passage, King Nebuchadnezzar confronts Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, when they refuse to bow down to the golden image (statue) he has set up and his god. These three men respond with confidence and stand firm in their belief that their God can rescue them from Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace. BUT, even if God does not rescue them, they will not give in to the pressure to serve another god.

Discussion:

- How do you respond when other people try to convince you to go against your faith?
- In your current challenges, how can you remain confident in God's ability to rescue you?
- How do you respond when God doesn't rescue you?

Pastor Chris finishes his message by encouraging us to speak our faith out loud. Faith comes from hearing, and we need to say what's true to move our faith from our head to our heart. However, we don't live out faith because we know God will reward us someday, we live out our faith to be obedient and demonstrate our love for him in front of other people. We can find purpose in serving the church and helping other people experience faith in God.

Discussion:

- How can you speak your faith out loud this week?
- Where can you serve to help others experience God and grow in their faith?

ANNOUNCE

- Did you sign up for a Serve Team on Sunday? If not, there's still time! We need your help to serve our current two services (attend one, serve one model) and to get ready for Easter Sunday!
 - To sign up for a serve team, fill out the Serve Team interest form! I sent it to Lg leaders in the chat!
 - <https://ourcity.churchcenter.com/people/forms/273609>
- Easter Sunday is April 9th!
 - Who can you start praying for and investing in to invite for Easter??
- Love Our City Street Team!
 - We'll be preparing for Easter weekend by praying for and inviting our local community!
 - Email or text Katie Moore (KatieM@ourcity.church or 818-585-2500) if you're interested in doing a prayer walk in our local neighborhoods!

PRAY

One of the things that we want to focus on each season of Life Groups is to get comfortable praying out loud together. Close out your time together with prayer. If you're a newer Life Group, the leader can set an example by leading in prayer, but explain that we'll all be doing this over the next few weeks together. Explain that prayer is simply talking to God - there aren't perfect words to say. Next week, encourage someone else to close in prayer!

Are there any prayer requests or praise/prayer requests?

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