

June 6, 2021

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### **TEACHING OVERVIEW**

Pastor Ken kicked off the summer teaching series called Summer at Cypress by telling the story of three men who displayed incredible faith in the midst of a life-threatening circumstance. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God could make a way, and as a result, the religious affiliation of an entire nation was set on a new trajectory.

## **Encouragement**

It's officially summertime, and at Cypress, that means the fun is just getting started! Throughout the next two months, we are going to be diving into some of the most interesting and surprising stories from the Bible. But that's not all: with Groups, Family Fun Nights, All Music Weekend, and more, we promise you're going to want to spend your Summer at Cypress! Find all the info you need right HERE!

What is your favorite part about summer? What are you excited to do this summer that you weren't able to do last summer?

# Scripture & Discussion

Read: <u>Daniel 3:16-18 (NLT)</u>

#### **Discuss**

1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego believed God would rescue them from the furnace, but they said that "even if He doesn't" they would never serve Nebuchadnezzar's gods or worship the gold statue he set up. If God miraculously intervened every time we cry out to Him, there would be no need for faith. Has there been a time in your life where your faith has been strengthened when God did not answer a prayer in the way you hoped He would?



# Scripture & Discussion

Read: <u>Daniel 3:28-29 (NLT)</u>

### **Discuss**

- 2. These three young men were able to take a bold stand largely because of their ability to stick together and encourage one another. Who are the people in your life that encourage you to live out your faith on a daily basis? Do not take these relationships for granted, but instead seek them out and thank them this week for their relationship and its impact on your ability to make it through life's fires.
- 3. Pastor Ken shared that our decisions reflect our values. Take an honest assessment of the decisions you make and lifestyle you live on a daily basis. Are these the values, and ultimately the reputation, you want for yourself and your family? If not, what is one decision you can make this week to start taking back ground?

## Prayer

We all have fires that we have to trust God to walk through in this life. They likely aren't literal fires like we talked about this weekend, but are relational fires, financial fires, and even the unknown fire that we're going to walk through tomorrow. Pray this week that God would give you the same boldness and courage He gave to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Thank you God for promising to always be our Provider!

### Next Steps

Pastor Ken ended the teaching by presenting us with the challenge to surrender our will to be part of the greatest mission the world has ever known... the Church. Before you can fully live, one must truly die. Pick one day this week and get up 10 minutes early to spend some time journaling and reflecting on what God is asking you to surrender. Listen and obey His voice as we all do our part to be a shining light in this world for Him!