



**MONTEREY  
CHURCH**  
TRUTH . LOVE . POWER

## **SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY DISCUSSION GUIDE**

### **Announcements / Upcoming Events**

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

### **WELCOME**

Who is someone you admire for standing up for what they believe?

### **WORSHIP**

Read Psalm 138 or Listen to "Tis So Sweet" - Shane & Shane  
<https://youtu.be/srZ9IGsFy4o?si=NMG4hztFq2y6poll>

### **WORD**

*Message Title: Babylon: In It, Not of It | "The Courage of Our Convictions"*  
(Part 5) by Pastor Bryan James, 11/23/2025

*Scriptures:* Daniel 3

1. What part of the message or Scripture stood out to you this week? Why?
2. What actions does Nebuchadnezzar take after hearing Daniel's accurate interpretation of his dream of the statue and why? What does this teach us about wisdom in applying God's word to our lives, apart from the Holy Spirit?
3. What does the King's statue and the people's actions reveal about the nature of mankind, apart from the Holy Spirit? How does Satan exploit an individuals' insecurities/weakness/emptiness and incite them to ungodly behaviour? How do you see this unfold in today's culture, as well as in your personal life and relationships?
4. How do Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego respond to Nebuchadnezzar's demand? What lessons learned do we glean from their example of faith, words, and actions that help us to live out the "courage of our convictions" as Jesus' disciples today?
5. What areas of your life do you experience the pressure to compromise your convictions (at work, at home, with finances, with friends)? How can you stand firm in these situations, with integrity and respect? Encourage one another in wisdom.
6. Share how you have personally experienced the "glory of God" that brings contentment and security, making you stout-hearted? Do you experience his glory regularly or find it rare? Why or why not? Pray to the Lord and ask to know Him more deeply, intimately.

**DIGGING DEEPER - INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY (IBS)**

For those studying *Daniel* using the IBS method, what additional insights did you gain through Observation, Interpretation, and Application (OIA) of the text?

**WITNESS** Commit to your heart's memory the example faith shown in the story of Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego and the fiery furnace. Be alert to how the Holy Spirit may lead you to stand firm in your convictions in big and small ways this week. Be filled with the Spirit so you may respond with godly integrity as an ambassador for Christ in the midst of 'Babylon.'

**CLOSING PRAYER  
& INTERCESSION** Share prayer requests and pray for one another.  
Allow space to wait and listen for God to speak, as you pray.