

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



These discussion questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. You can use them for your personal Bible study, family study, and/or small group study.

Overview

Sermon: *Fire Resistant*

...Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. – Daniel 1:8 (NIV)

Daniel and his friends have been forced to leave their homeland and take residence in the Babylonian king's palace. The king sees fit to choose Daniel and his friends to assimilate them to the Babylonian culture and god's so that they will be in service to the king and his government. They are presented with many challenges and when their faith in God is put under pressure, they seek God's help and he provides them a way to resist temptation. In the middle of the fire they are resistant.

Discussion

1. What are some things in your life that you have resisted? How were you able to resist? How did those experiences change you?
2. Read James 1:1-15. Why do you think James describes temptations as trials and tests? How are they interrelated? How might they not always be synonymous?
3. From James 1, why are we to "consider it pure joy" whenever we face trials and tests to our faith? Describe what they produce in us.
4. Read Daniel 1. How did Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah resist the king? How was it important to their faith that they resist? What are pressures against your faith that you face that you believe are important for you to resist and why? How are you resisting?
5. The guard thought that Daniel and his friends would be affected negatively if they choose resist to the king's choice food and drink. How is a resistant faith important to your witness and testimony? How can people misunderstand the resistant faith of those who follow Jesus?
6. This story is not about making healthy dietary choices. It is about abstaining from and resisting temptation to seek the will and reward of God. How does God reward Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah? How are you tempted to accept something good when God wants something great for you?

Application

7. How might James 1:1-15 be a commentary on Daniel 1? What will you choose to do today and the coming days to apply what you have learned from the readings and discussion? Pray for God's help and his reward.

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