

# **The Flame That Forms Us [Bold Faith Stands Firm]**

## **Discussion Guide**

### **Summary**

This sermon explores the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from Daniel 3, using their experience as a case study in standing firm in faith during trials. Jonathan emphasizes how these three men demonstrated 'even if' faith - believing God could save them but choosing to remain faithful even if He didn't. Their story illustrates how God walks with believers through their trials, breaking chains in the process.

### **Intro Prayer**

Lord, as we gather to discuss Your Word, open our hearts to understand what it means to stand firm in faith during trials. Help us to see You as the fourth man in our own fires, and give us the courage to maintain an 'even if' faith that trusts You regardless of circumstances. Guide our discussion and strengthen our faith through it. Amen.

### **Ice Breaker**

What's the hottest temperature you've ever experienced, and what were you doing at the time?

### **Key Verses**

- Galatians 5:1
- Daniel 3:17-18
- Isaiah 43:1-2
- Ephesians 6:10-11

## **Questions**

- What does it mean to have an 'even if' faith like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego demonstrated?
- How can we prioritize God's voice over the noise of culture in today's world?
- What chains in your life need to be broken through the refining process?
- Why do you think God sometimes allows the 'fire' to get hotter in our lives?
- How can we maintain our faith when circumstances seem to be getting worse instead of better?
- What pieces of God's armor do you find most challenging to put on daily?
- How has God used difficult circumstances in your life to impact others?
- What practical steps can we take to develop unwavering faith like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

## **Life Application**

This week, identify one challenging situation in your life and practice 'even if' faith by writing down both your hoped-for outcome and a statement of trust in God even if He chooses a different path. Then, commit to putting on the full armor of God each morning before facing your day.

## **Key Takeaways**

- Bold faith stands firm even when circumstances are difficult
- Jesus walks with us through our trials - we're never alone in the fire
- Living with 'even if' faith means trusting God regardless of outcomes

- Putting on the full armor of God daily is essential for standing firm
- Our faithfulness in trials can impact others and bring glory to God

### **Ending Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of bold faith we see in Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Help us develop that same unwavering trust in You, knowing that You are with us in every trial we face. Give us strength to stand firm in our faith, even when the fires of life grow hotter. May we glorify You through our faithful response to trials, trusting You even if outcomes differ from our hopes. In Jesus' name, Amen.