

Daniel: Faith in the Fire

Daniel and Psalm 73

Melissa Nguyen

Group Sharing:

Have you seen someone else show faith in the “fire?” If you don’t have an answer, how about a character from literature or film/TV?

Discussion:

What’s the first thing to come to mind when you hear the phrase, “God is good?” Is your reaction positive or negative?

Melissa shared: God’s goodness isn’t dependent on our circumstances, but God’s nature.

In your trials, is there a time when you leaned on Scripture about God’s nature? Did someone else share Scripture with you in trials?

Today we learned things that Daniel knew:

1. He knew the Word of God, deep down.
2. He knew God intimately.
3. He knew God was good, even when his circumstances were not.
4. He knew to keep praying.

Do you “know” these four things deep down? Have you experienced them? Are there one or more that you don’t feel confident you fully “know” yet?

God is good enough to follow, even when life goes badly:

Daniel 3:16-18 “We do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from your Majesty’s hand. *But even if he does not*, we want you to know your majesty, that we will not serve your God, or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

Have you felt this way, in the midst of a trial? “Even if he does not save me,” I will praise him?

Read all of Psalm 73 with the group, taking turns (NLT).

In V. 1: What does author Asaph know about God's nature?

In V. 13-14: How does Asaph feel about things "now," at the time he wrote this?

In V. 21-22: After refocusing on God's nature and past performance, how does Asaph see himself?

In v. 23-28: How does Asaph conclude the psalm? Even if his situation has not changed, per se.

Any other reflections or striking portions of this Psalm?

Application: Before prayer, ask the group:

Which Scriptures have encouraged you in trials?

Or which would you share with someone else in trials? If you don't have any off the top of your head, look some up. Collect some from the group. Save them on your phone or send yourself an email with them, for when you need them later: "In this world you WILL have trouble." John 16:33

If you need a starting place, it's helpful to start reminding each other that God is with us. Melissa shared specifically that God is WITH us, in the Old Testament, Prophets, Psalms and Gospels:

1. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. --Joshua 1:5
2. ...for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. --Joshua 1:9
3. Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. --Isaiah 41:10
4. Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. --Psalm 73:23
5. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. -- Matthew 28:20