



Daniel 3:16-18 – Austin

June 21, 2026

Read & Reflect

READ:

- Daniel 3:14-18 | Matthew 7:7-29 | Luke 14:26-27

Faith isn't measured by what God does for us. Faith is trusting Him even when life doesn't go the way we hoped. Jesus invites us to build our lives on Him through daily relationship, not occasional participation.

Understand the Moment

It's easy to admire the courage of the three men in Daniel 3, but their story forces us to ask a deeper question: *What would it take for me to compromise my faith?* They were faced with pressure to conform, at cost of their convictions. In many ways, we face the same challenge today. While our furnaces may look different, the temptation remains the same: to fit in, stay comfortable, and keep Jesus confined to one hour on Sunday instead of surrendering every area of our lives to Him.

Jesus never described discipleship as casual belief. In Matthew 7, He warns that hearing His words is not enough—we must put them into practice. In Luke 14, He tells potential followers to count the cost before claiming His name. Following Jesus means building our lives on a foundation strong enough to withstand pressure, criticism, disappointment, and suffering. It means deciding ahead of time that Jesus is worthy of our devotion, even when obedience is difficult and the outcome is uncertain.

The good news is that God never asks us to stand alone. Just as Jesus stood with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire, He promises His presence with us. The goal of discipleship is not merely surviving difficult moments—it is becoming the kind of person whose faith remains steady because it is rooted in Christ. The question is not whether God is faithful, but whether we are willing to trust Him with more than our Sunday mornings.

Process Together or Alone

- What stands out to you most about the response of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
- Why do you think their faith remained strong even when death seemed possible?
- What "fires" or pressures challenge your faith today?
- In what ways can it be tempting to settle for cultural Christianity instead of true discipleship?

Follow Jesus This Week

Listen

- What phrase, verse, or truth stands out most as you read?
- What area of your life feels built on sand instead of the rock?

Obey

- How can you create intentional time with God this week?
- What would giving Jesus more of your "168 hours" look like?

Share

- Who can encourage you in your faith journey?
- Who can hold you accountable this week?

Care

- Where do you need God's strength to trust Him?
- How can those around you pray for you this week?



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Live It Out

This week, spend ten intentional minutes each day practicing Jesus' invitation to **Ask. Seek. Knock.**

- Ask: Pray to God to reveal where your faith has become comfortable.
- Seek: Read scripture, looking specifically for what it means to be a disciple rather than simply a believer. Look for God on every page.
- Knock: Put your faith to action and highlight, journal, and share what you discover, then take one practical step of obedience—something you've delayed, avoided, or been hesitant to surrender.

Remember: discipleship isn't measured by how much you know. It's revealed by how willing you are to follow.

Pray

- Thank God for His faithfulness, even in life's fires.
- Ask Him to reveal areas where you've been holding back.
- Pray for courage to obey Him regardless of the outcome.
- Ask God to deepen your love for Jesus above comfort, approval, or convenience.
- Pray for the strength to build your life on the rock of His Word.

Jesus, I don't want to settle for knowing about You when You've invited me to truly follow You. Reveal anything in my life that competes for my devotion. Give me the courage to trust You even when obedience is costly and outcomes are uncertain. Help me build my life on the foundation of Your Word and become the disciple You've called me to be. Whether in blessing or difficulty, teach me to say, "Even if He doesn't, I will still trust Him." Amen.

Group Leader Optional Questions

Opening Question:

What is something you've committed to in life that required sacrifice, discipline, or perseverance?

Closing Reflection:

If someone examined your calendar, priorities, and daily habits, what evidence would they find that Jesus is your highest devotion?



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