
LEADERSHIP COACHING: BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Discipleship Phrase: I can trust God.

Big Idea for Series: Discovering God's character & plan through the Minor Prophets.

Abiding [grow as a disciple yourself]

Have you ever found yourself in the middle of taking a test and finding out that it was more difficult than you thought so you then began praying for God to miraculously provide answers somehow? Well many of us can relate, but the truth is, it doesn't work that way does it? To do well, you have to prepare well right? You have to study and that takes discipline. The same is true spiritually. We know that trials will come but the battle is often won long before the actual testing. How well are you doing with your disciplines (spiritually)? Your answer will likely determine how well you do during seasons of testing.

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

As you lead group this week, try to get the group to a place of understanding that the "win" is not found in the outcome (of the battle) itself, but rather in the *preparation* leading up to it. Encourage your group to share some spiritual disciplines they actually practice regularly. Lead out with your own, be courageous and humble enough to share where you personally struggle in these areas.

Shepherding [know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

Spend some time thinking about every individual in your group. Consider those who may struggle with their faith. Shadrach, Meshach & Abendnego had "*Even if*" faith, as in *even if* God doesn't do what I'm asking, He is still God and worthy of praise. During group, keep in mind those who struggle. How can you best leverage the message from this week's sermon along with the curriculum here to help them grow in this area? How can you be an intentional leader this week for them?

Background Plus[®] [a deeper dive into the context of this week's story]

- Daniel wrote to his fellow Jewish exiles in Babylon to, 1) Encourage them to continue to live in Babylon and yet not succumb to the anti-god, worldly influence, 2) Remind them that God is sovereign and able to sustain His children even in adverse circumstances.
- Ezekiel and Jeremiah were contemporaries of Daniel and he would have seen the first wave of Jewish people return to Jerusalem with Nehemiah and Ezra.
- The Bible Project - [Daniel](#)

All Church [know what's happening]

Sept. 22nd - [Church Wide Tailgate](#) get your group tailgate ready!!!

Oct. 5th - [Rise & Return Men's Conference](#). Encourage every man in your group not to miss this!

WEEK 2 TOPIC: FOLLOWING GOD IS ALWAYS TESTED.

WEEK 2 TAKEAWAY: FIGHT FOR GOD PRIVATELY AND HE'LL FIGHT FOR YOU PUBLICLY.

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

Review the Guidelines [Share the guidelines to set the rails for group time]

Review Last Week [A follow up to last week's takeaway]

How humble have you been this past week? [Trick question]

Ask A Hook Question [A thought provoking question to get the group focused]

Growing up, how well did you do on tests? How disciplined were you about studying for those tests?

Share Background for the Story [A thought provoking question to get the group focused]

As a result of Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar dream, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were promoted to administrators over the province of Babylon. Twenty-four years pass between the events of chapter 2 and today's story. Nebuchadnezzar's heart has not changed one bit. He admitted previously that God was a great God, but that truth stayed in his head and did not penetrate his heart. Large statues, though made of wood, were plated with gold. The statue in this story is estimated to be about 90 feet high and probably represented the god Nabu, whose name formed the first element in Nebuchadnezzar's name.

Share the Story: [Dan. 3:1-19](#)

Rebuild the Story [An invitation for all in group to engage]

Discussion Questions: [An opportunity for the group to dive beyond the surface]

1. How did Nebuchadnezzar honor himself and what was he asking all people to do because of this?
2. Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego were tested. Was their faith tied to the outcome of their circumstance? How so...? [v.18 "But even if He doesn't"]
3. How are you specifically preparing for the trials/battles that are certain to come? How does that compare to an "Even if He doesn't" type of faith?
4. What new disciplines can you commit to begin that will better prepare you to be battle ready?

Assign Next Week's Passage: [Judg. 6:7-16](#)

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer
