

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE



### STORIES YOU SHOULD KNOW

ABE MATOS

OCTOBER 08, 2023

If you would like to watch the message, visit [rpc.me/messages](https://rpc.me/messages).

### ICEBREAKERS

- What is your favorite film series? (e.g., *The Godfather*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Star Wars*, etc.)
- What is the name of a film series you just couldn't get into?

### READ

Daniel 3:1-18

### QUESTIONS

- What command did King Nebuchadnezzar give to the people in this passage? (As soon as they heard the sound of music they were to fall down and worship his gods and the image of gold he set up)
- What would happen to anyone who did not follow the King's command? (They would immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace)
- How often do you feel the need to defend yourself? Where does the need to defend yourself arise in your life? (e.g., family, friendship, work, faith)
- Abe says, "At the heart of defensiveness is the idea that if I don't look out for me, no one will." How does your belief in God challenge this line of defensiveness? (There's a quiet strength and confidence that comes from knowing that if God is for us, who can be

against us. Standing firm in our faith and our confidence in God should lessen the need to defend ourselves.)

- Re-read Daniel 3:16-18. What sticks out to you in these verses?
- What was Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego response to the King's command? (They would not bow down to serve Nebuchadnezzar's gods or worship the image of gold because their faith was in God even if God did not deliver them from this situation)
- Is there a situation in your life you wanted God to intervene before it happened, but He allowed you to go through it anyway? What were the results?
- Re-read verse 17. How does affirming "God is able" over any "What If" situation bring you encouragement? ("What If" statements lead to anxiousness and worry because these statements are tied to our outcomes. By replacing the saying "What If" with "God Is Able" we can point to the One who is capable and remain firm in His promises even when the situation is difficult.)
- What do you make of the fact that God is able to act, but He may choose not to act? (Faith is not based on positive outcomes. Even though God is able to act on our behalf, if He chooses not to, we will still praise Him.)

**THE THREE QUESTIONS:** The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

- **What did you hear?** What point in this message was most impactful for you?
- **What do you think?** How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
- **What will you do?** How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER:** How can the group pray for you now and in the days ahead?

**LEADERS:** Mark your calendars for the "Concert in the Yard" on **Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm**. We'll have some of your favorite musicians. Bring your blanket, chairs, grab a turkey leg from The Grill and your group and come hang out!

To Dads, Uncles, Grandfathers and friends we have a "Father Son Campout" at the Richmond Campus on **Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** for boys in Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Sign up today at [rpc.me/events](http://rpc.me/events).