

FURNACE FAITH

Welcome to Faith Students!! We are in week 3 of our new series on the the book of Daniel called “Den of Dreams”.

Opening Illustration: Tell a fun story between you and a couple of friends. Maybe getting in trouble or just a fun and engaging story.

Set up and context:

The title of my message is “**Furnace Faith**”

Let me give you some back story on these 3 friends. Their king and ruler Nebuchadnezzar had set up a 90 foot tall golden statue that he required everyone in Babylon to bow down and worship when ever they heard the sound of some specific instruments.

But Shadrach, Meshach and Abendego who were over all of the affairs of the province of Babylon refused to bow down to this idol. Some of the astrologers got wind of this and they clearly wanted to get on the kings good side and were some tattle tails and told the king that they were not bowing down to worship the idol.

The king even tried to give them a second chance to bow down but they refused. Now These 3 friends were about to face death or so they thought because they refused to bow down to King Nebuchadnezzars 90 foot Golden Statue. So, out of Rage king Nebuchadnezzar decided to throw them into a fiery furnace

Now let’s see what happens next, open your bibles to Daniel 3:19

We are going to read 11 verses so stand und shake it out and get ready to focus up!

Daniel 3:19-30

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual 20 and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. 21 So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. 22 The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, 23 and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

25 He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, 27 and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Prayer

-How many of you would like to have Faith like these 3 men? Faith enough to stand up for what you believe in even when you are looking at the fire that is about to burn you? Faith to put Jesus first in every aspect of your life. How many of you want **Furnace Faith**?

How to Have Furnace Faith:

1. Cut out the idols

Everyone else around them was worshiping this 90 foot tall golden statute and not asking questions, yet these 3 men stood strong in there faith and chose not to do what everyone else was doing.

-They knew that this golden statue was not worthy of their worship so they were not going to waste there time worshipping it. But how many of us can say we are doing the same?

-I know many of us have idols in our own lives. Things that get in the way of us and God. HUGE distractions that we simply won't let go

of. Things like our phone, video games, pride, lust, or even sports or music. Anything that gets between you and God is an idol.

Can I tell you something today? **you can have all the faith in the world, but True freedom won't come into your life until you cut out the idols in your life.** Now I'm not telling you to throw away your phone, but I am telling you to put the first things first. Jesus, your family, and your church. Everything after that is just icing on the cake.

2. Find Faith filled friends.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abendigo had each other. They all loved the lord with their whole heart and they had each other to lean on, they had each other to talk to, they had each other to pray with and they had each other stand in the fire with them. So no matter what the enemy through their way they knew they had God and they had each other. We need friends like this, we need FAITH FILLED FRIENDS

Red rover illustration: (need 4 people) (Explain the game red rover. Where kids would hold hands then call to the other side and say "Red rover, red rover send Johnny on over.") Use 4 students 1 is going to represent the sins and the distractions that the devil try to throw our way. Have 1 student stand on the other side and say "red rover, red rover send sin on over. Have the one student out there arms out so

they have no one to hang onto and the person can run right threw them. Then have the person join hands with two friends. Have the person try to run through them and now they can't. **This represents how important to is to have friends that we can lean on and pull on when we are going through something difficult. We have God but it is also so important to lean on our faith filled friends and talk about the things that we are going through.**

Guys there are things that you need to talk to other guys about and ladies need other ladies to talk to.

This is why it is so important to find Faith filled friends, this is why it is important to get connected here, show up to faith students, come to camp, and invite friends. This is because we need Jesus, but we also need each other, we need community!

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

3. Let Jesus live through you.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendigo didn't just have this type of Faith because they prayed sometimes and thought "man I am not sure this

golden statue would do anything for me.” They had Furnace Faith because the Lord lived through them!

We can't live the Christian life, this supernatural light, in the natural. We simply don't have the strength.

Glove Illustration: use 1 work glove and set it by a bible, then put 3 other gloves in a bag.

Work glove: It's well made and its designed for work, so it better be able to do some work. Tell it to do work, tell the glove to pick up the Bible. Then say, “Maybe it needs some inspiration, maybe in needs some training some discipling, maybe it needs some fellowship.” Then you pull out the other gloves in the bag to encourage the glove. Then say, “This glove needs to make a commitment, rededicate its self to being a glove.” After its become obvious say this...

Even though this glove was designed for work, It can't do the work until a living hand fills every part of it and does its work through the glove. And that is how the Christian life works. We can't live the Christian life, with our own strength. We don't have the power to do it on our own because of our fallen human condition. The only way to live that life is to allow christ to live his life through us and He does that through the Holy Spirit.

When we begin to live our lives like this other people can't help but notice that we are different. Maybe people know that you are facing something difficult but they notice that you have peace and that you have the joy of the Lord even in the midst of the fire that you are walking through. The Lord can use whatever you're walking through to reveal himself to others.

This is because **Jesus reveals himself to others in the fire.**

Verse 25: He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.

How did the King know what the Son of God even looked like? Jesus hadn't even been a figure of speech during this time. It is because the Holy Spirit revealed Jesus to him in that moment.

This is what happens when we let Jesus live through us.

On the other side of whatever fire you're walking through, there is Promotion. Promotion comes when we have the Faith to trust in God even when times get tough. In this Christian life we will walk through some difficult things, but the Lord promises just like he did to these 3 faithful men that God won't even let a hair

on your head be harmed if you just simply trust that He is in control.

Verse 30: Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

The king prompted them because of their Faith. Our King will promote us as well. He will say, “well done my good and faithful servant.”

There will be a day where we will face Jesus face to face and He will judge us for how we lived our lives here on earth. The good, the bad and the ugly. I don't know about you but I want to hear Jesus say, “Well done my good and faithful servant.” Do you?

Some of you may not have a personal relationship with Jesus and you want to have that... Call to salvation.

Altar:

Have leaders at the front for prayer.

- Have students come up if they are walking through a fire right now and need the Lord to help them.

- **Students that want prayer to find some faith filled friends**
- **Students who need prayer to cut out the idols in there life.**