

**FAMILY LIFE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY
LIFE GROUP - RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

TITLE: UNSHAKABLE

SESSION FOUR: WHEN THE HEAT IS ON

**KEY VERSE: “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able
To save us.”**

Daniel 3:17a (NLT)

CHECKING IN:

In session 3, we talked about following the biblical steps for walking through an impossible situation. What did God show you this week as you expected him to give you his supernatural help?

This week we’re going to learn how to develop an unshakeable faith for those times when the heat is on.

King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide^[a] and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. Then he sent messages to the high officers, officials, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the provincial officials to come to the dedication of the statue he had set up. So all these officials^[b] came and stood before the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Then a herald shouted out, “People of all races and nations and languages, listen to the king’s command! When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments,^[c] bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar’s gold statue. Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”

So at the sound of the musical instruments,^[d] all the people, whatever their race or nation or language, bowed to the ground and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Daniel 3:1-7 (NLT)

But some officials went to the king and accused some of the Jews of refusing to worship!

“Your Majesty,” they said to him, “you made a law that everyone must fall down and worship the gold statue when the band* begins to play, and that anyone who refuses will be thrown into a flaming furnace. But there are some Jews out there—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,

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whom you have put in charge of Babylonian affairs—who have defied you, refusing to serve your gods or to worship the gold statue you set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar, in a terrible rage, ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought in before him.

“Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,” he demanded, “that you are refusing to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I set up? I’ll give you one more chance. When the music plays, if you fall down and worship the statue, all will be well. But if you refuse, you will be thrown into a flaming furnace within the hour. And what god can deliver you out of my hands then?”

Daniel 3:8-15 (TLB)

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN THE HEAT IS ON?

1.) **Don’t worry about** _____.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.”

Daniel 3:16 (ESV)

2.) **Remember that God has the power to** _____.

“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us.”

Daniel 3:17 (NLT)

3.) _____ **That God will save me.**

“He will save us from your power, O king.”

Daniel 3:17b (NCV)

4.) **I announce my** _____ **no matter what.**

“But even if God does not save us, we want you O king to know this. We will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”

Daniel 3:18 (NCV)

Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments. And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as they

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threw the three men in. So, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell into the roaring flames.

Daniel 3:19-23 (NLT)

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TRUST GOD IN THE FURNACE?

1.) God will _____ with me.

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." 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."

Daniel 3:24-25 (NIV)

Jesus said "I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

2.) God will _____ everything tying me down.

"I have refined you but not in the way silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering."

Isiah 48:10 (NLT)

3.) God will give me a new _____.

You let captors set foot on our neck, we went through fire and water, then you led us out to freedom.

Psalms 66:12 (NABRE)

4.) God will make sure I come out _____.

Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire. Then the high officers, officials, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!

Daniel 26-27 (NLT)

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5.) It will _____ to God.

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.

Daniel 3:28 (NIV)

So I now give this command: Anyone from any nation or language who says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be torn apart and have his house turned into a pile of stones. No other god can save his people like this.” Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the area of Babylon.

Daniel 29-30 (NCV)

6.) God will _____ in Heaven.

We must each be careful how we build, because Christ is the only foundation. Whatever we build on that foundation will be tested by fire on the day of judgment. Then everyone will find out if we have used gold, silver, and precious stones, or wood, hay, and straw. We will be rewarded if our building is left standing. But if it is destroyed by the fire, we will lose everything. Yet we ourselves will be saved, like someone escaping from flames.

1 Corinthians 3:10b-15 (CEV)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1.) When we are criticized for what we believe, often our first reaction is defensiveness. But Daniel teaches us to trust God to defend us. What would that look like? Would you rather defend yourself or be defended by the God of the universe? Why? How can you develop trust that God will defend you?

2.) Isaiah 43:2 says, “when you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you . . . When you walk through the fire of oppression you will not be burned up” (TLB). Talk about a difficult time when you felt God’s presence and you knew, without a doubt, that he was right there with you in the fire.

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3.) What are some things God has “burned off” from your life? Why do you think he did that? How have you been different since then? How have your priorities changed?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

Jesus will always be with me, even in the fire.

“I am with you always, to the very end of age.

Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

God is refining me in the fire to help me mature.

“I have refined you but not in the way silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering.”

Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)

God is leading me through the fire to freedom.

We went through fire and water, then you led us out to freedom.

Psalms 66:12b (NABRE)

God is protecting me in the fire.

Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn’t even smell of smoke!

Daniel 3:27b (NLT)

God can be trusted when I’m in the fire.

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to God of Sadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants. They trusted in him.”

Daniel 3:28a (NIV)

Jesus will be my only foundation once I’m through the fire.

Christ is the only solid foundation. Whatever we build on that foundation will be tested by fire . . . we will be rewarded if our building is left standing.

1 Corinthians 3:11-12, 14 (CEV)