



WHEN IN BABYLON

Daniel 3

WARM UP

What is one, possibly funny, thing you're afraid of?

SET IT UP

Daniel and his friends were dragged from their homes and forced to march 500 miles to the capital of Babylon. And there, far from their family, their people, their place of worship—far from everything familiar—their convictions were put to the test. They thrived in a society that didn't share their values. If they can do that in Babylon, what can we do today?

CHAT IT UP

1. King Nebuchadnezzar made a great golden idol and commanded the people to worship it. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego couldn't do it. **Read Daniel 3:13-18. How did they respond to the king's death threat?**
2. **Why do you think they refused to bow down... wouldn't it be better to go along with it and live to fight another day? Why or why not?**
3. The King had them thrown into the fire. Check out what happens next. **Read Daniel 3:24-30. What happened to the men in the fire? What was the response of the king?**
4. **In America, we don't bow down to physical idols. But we do worship other idols. Can you think of something people make number one in their lives?** (Ex: Money, power, control, pleasure, security, attention.)
5. **What are the costs of following idols like these?**
6. **What is one of the hardest things you've ever done?** (A decision, a change, stopping something, starting something, etc.) **What gave you the courage to do it?**

WRAP IT UP

Either fear or faith will determine your future. We never know what's at stake in your obedience. When you give in to fear you miss out on God. But even a small act of obedience can have a ripple affect beyond what you expect.

LEADER TIPS

- This is one of those weeks where you'll cover a lot of verses. Consider printing out Daniel 3 for your group members.
- The question might come up, "Who was the fourth person in the fire?" Scholars conclude that he was either an angel or "The Angel of the Lord" (an appearance of Jesus before he became a man). Note: angel means "messenger."