

4/8/2018 – More: His Presence

GROW GROUP HOMEWORK

Welcome to Winter/Spring 2018 sermon-based Grow Groups! To prepare for your time together, fully answer the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you could go forward in time, what would you want to know?

2. Would you rather visit the doctor or the dentist?

3. What was impactful to you from this weekend's message?

INTO THE BIBLE

Pastor Jim shared that “we’ve got to get to know the God whose purpose we’re carrying out.” We are going to look at three men who were determined to live in God’s presence and through their faithfulness found themselves face to face with their Passion.

King Nebuchadnezzar took over Jerusalem and during the invasion brought some of the youth back to Babylon with Him

1. Read Daniel 1:5-7.
 - A) What changes to the young Jewish men did the King present?
 - B) Why do you the King wanted to introduce these changes

2. Read Daniel 1:8-16
 - A) What was Daniel’s request of man in charge of him?
 - B) Why did he not want to partake of this food?
 - C) What would be “being defiled” cause Daniel and his friends to endure?
 - D) How did God honor their faithfulness

3. The King had also tried to persuade these young men by changing their names and their education. Read Daniel 1:17-20?

- A) How Did God provide from Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.
- B) What do you think it means that Daniel and his friends kept their own names?

After the four young men found favor with the king he elevated them in charge. The king then has a dream that no one can interpret. He is very angry none of his wise men could interpret the dream. Daniel was to be killed with all the other dream interpreters. Daniel finds out about this and sets up a time to interpret the dream

4. Read Daniel 2:17-19

- A) What did he seek out his friends for in these verses?
- B) What do you think it says about Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah that Daniel sought them out to speak to God?
- C) What does it say about Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah that God answered their prayer?

Verse 19 says that God revealed the mystery of the dream immediately. Praise God for his faithfulness!

King Nebuchadnezzar had a golden image made for himself so that all the world would worship him. The entire nation was commanded to bow to this image when the music played. The ancient orchestra sounded and the entire country fell to their knees in obedience. Can you imagine looking over all these people kneeling down and then in the distance seeing three figures standing up against the king's orders.

5. Read Daniel 3:13-15. In these verses King Nebuchadnezzar uses the names Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the ones he had given them, for Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

- A) In these verses the King gives the three men another chance to obey him. What is the foretelling question that he asks of these men?
- B) How would you answer if someone asked you to explain who your God is?

6. Read Daniel 3:16-18

- A) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted in God. What was the answer that they gave the King?
- B) How do you think they developed this trust in God to deliver this answer.

7. Read Daniel 3:19-25. The three men were thrown into the fire that was so hot that the men who threw them in died. But they were not alone in the fire. The king sees them there with a fourth man. This man is most likely Jesus coming down from heaven and protecting the ones who stood for Him in faith. They were in the presence of their hope face to face. Never had being in a fire been so sweet for anyone.

8. Read Daniel 3:28-30. After Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego come out of the fire with no damage and all praise going to their God, what did their faith in the one whom they were in the presence of bring about in the king's life?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Has the time you have spent with God allowed you to be someone others would look to intercede for them in prayer?

2. Have you experienced peace in the fire in your life knowing God was there with you in the fire.

3. What is the world trying to press into your life that would infringe upon the identity of who you are in Christ?