

**Questions for Small Group or Individual Study/Reflection**  
**Unlocking the Old Testament Sermon Series ~ Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego**  
**Advent Series on the Roles of Jesus in Your Life**  
**The Book of Daniel ~ Chapters 1-3 (Comfort in Suffering)**  
**Sermon for December 6, 2009**

In the early chapters of the Book of Daniel, we see Daniel and his Hebrew friends in action as they live out their faith in a foreign land in the midst of their service to the King of Babylon. The courageous and uncompromising stand of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego has been and continues to be an inspiration to the people of God when tempted to waver in our walk of faith. May this Christmas season bring you renewed hope and assurance that Jesus promises to never leave us nor forsake us – no matter where we are in our journey of life and faith!!!

1. As you think of the friendships you have shared in over your lifetime, who would/will stick with you when the heat was/is on? Who has been—like the three young men—an example of faith and trust that has drawn you to the Lord?
2. Where do you think God wants you to take a stand because of your faith? Where do you draw your greatest strength from when taking a stand -- (Family, friends, material resources, Holy Spirit, Christian community, God's word)?
3. Chapter 3, verses 19-23. How did the king respond to the remarks of commitment to God by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? As Nebuchadnezzar stood watching the execution of his orders, he was astonished at the preservation of these Hebrews. What did he and the other officials see? What observations did they make about them?
4. How do you explain the mysterious fourth figure? (Angel, son of the gods, Son of God) Why do you think so?
5. Chapter 3, verses 26-30. What does Nebuchadnezzar make of the “God Most High” and his three undying servants? Do you think this experience made a believer out of him or not? Why?
6. How does Jesus comfort you? How might Jesus be with you in the midst of an extremely difficult situation? Are you prepared to remain faithful even if God does not “rescue” you?
7. **Personal Application – Prayer focus for the week:**

***Additional Scripture references:***

Read Daniel 1-3 before Sunday's sermon. Did you notice how Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego were involved with Daniel from the very beginning of the story? And then there is Daniel in the Lions' Den in Chapter 6 – what similarities do you see here in this story with Daniel, as to the “principles and predicament” that arise in Chapter 3 with his three friends?

Hebrews 11:33(b)-34(a); I Corin. 10:13; Psalm 91:9-12; Isaiah 43:1-3