

Home Group Notes

Inverted, week #3

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The focus of this week: How to respond when we're faced with a decision to comply with something in the world that is not honoring or obedient to God. Remember to avoid dwelling on the sins and evils of our culture.*

SHARE IT

When have you faced a decision that was unpopular with others or challenged your obedience?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *For me, this has been an ongoing challenge since a teen. As a follower of Christ, I had to choose to not indulge in certain parties, not participate in the sins of men in the Air National Guard, etc.*

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

Read Daniel chapter three and consider these questions:

What event was planned by Nebuchadnezzar? Who was invited? What was expected?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *This is straight forward: A forced worship before an idol for all leaders. Failure to obey meant death.*

What challenges had the Jewish exiles faced previously? And now?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *They were constantly deluged with pressure to conform to their new culture. They faced challenges to their dietary laws, to the teaching of the Chaldeans (occult and other evil practices) and even the ability to have supernatural knowledge / insight into the king's dream.*

Who reported on the Jews? (3:8) How had the Jews treated them in the past? (2:18)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The very people that they rescued in the previous chapter by revealing and interpreting the king's dream are now trying to have them killed. The Jews had been respectful and caring together them.*

How did the king respond to their disobedience? What were the results of his behavior?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The king was raging (Hebrew word in v.13) and contorting his face (Hebrew word in v. 19). His anger was causing him to make foolish decisions. (1) These men were of those who were now faithfully serving him, (2) these men were among those who supernaturally revealed a dream, and (3) his anger resulted in the death of "some of the strongest soldiers in his army."*

How did the three Jewish leaders respond? (3:16-18) (List their actions and character)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *They were honest, respectful, full of faith, courageous.*

How did God deliver them? Why this way? What were the results?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *He chose to personally or through an angel, walk in the fire with them. This resulted in many people seeing that He is the personal and all-powerful God of the Jews.*

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What do you like about the faith and character of these three?

What kinds of pressures or “idols” do we face? What can we learn from this story about how to respond?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *This is the application question of the week. We are all facing decisions of this kind every day. The key, here, is to focus on ‘How’ we will respond – with tact, respect, wisdom, and obedience.*

What is the cost of obedience in our culture?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The three were honest and respectful and willing to take the results. They truly believed that their God could deliver them and that the consequences / cost was controlled by God. In many places of our world, right now, believers are being harmed, restricted, demoted, cursed, and even martyred. Our role should be to pray, trust, support, etc. We should not be known for complaining or protesting or even judging others.*

What do we learn about God? How is He the hero?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *God had them where He wanted them. He is always in control and has master plan. God is trustworthy and even if He didn’t deliver them, He is still good.*

NOTES TO LEADERS: *May our God continue to work through you as you encourage one another to trust the “God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.”*

Steve