

Dig Deeper @Home – “Resident Aliens”

Complement to sermon on 5/20/18 – “Not with our Strength”

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What would you do for a Klondike bar? (For added fun, actually have a Klondike bar available and let the group one-up each other until only one is left, who will get the Klondike bar upon completion of their pledge)
2. If you had a biographical movie made about you, what actor/actress would you want playing the role of you? If you could have had any role in any movie, what would you pick and why?

MEMORIZE – 1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

READ – Daniel 3

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. King Nebuchadnezzar wants all nations to worship the golden image he had made. In light of this decree, read Psalm 148. What's the problem with Nebuchadnezzar's desire? What in your life are you worshipping that isn't the God of Heaven?
4. If you have internet access, go online and read Daniel 3 from the Septuagint. (The Septuagint is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament.) The Septuagint translation is very similar to the one in most protestant bibles but there are some differences.
 - a. Verse 23 in the Septuagint adds the phrase, “and walked in the midst of the flame, singing praise to God, and blessing the Lord.”
 - i. What is your response/reflection on this added phrase?
 - ii. What trials/tribulations are you currently walking through? What would it look like to praise and bless the Lord in the midst of it? What makes it hard?
5. In Daniel 3:25 we read that one “like a son of the gods” was in the furnace with the three men. What is the importance of this? Who was this fourth person? Do we have reason to believe that this 4th person is with us too? Why or why not? What difference does it make? (Read Acts 1:1-9)

Summarize Daniel 3 in two sentences or less:

Experiential- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego demonstrate great faith in their response to King Nebuchadnezzar. Read Matthew 17:20. If you have seeds around your house (mustard would be perfect but if not, substitute with something else) get them out and look at them. Make observations. What does it mean to have faith the size of a mustard seed? Do you find this passage encouraging or discouraging and why?

Testimony Time – Share a time you stood boldly and firm in your faith. What was the situation? How did it turn out?

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Behold Our God - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gqrli3Lkf58>

As you sing this praise to the “One who knows all things” let that truth lead you to seek Him for wisdom and direction in your life

Would you be Free – Mennonite Hymnal #555

A good reminder on the source of true power

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Holy Spirit, be our strength this week. Help us to rely more fully on you in every area of life. Live through us for the glory of God and the good of others. In Jesus Name, Amen.