



Group Discussion Guide: The God of the Fire | June 20, 2021

(~90 minutes needed)

Begin with Scripture + prayer (5-10 minutes)

Read all of Daniel 3 to begin your time together. This week's topic is "The God of the Fire." In this story, we learn how God wants us to be faithfully devoted to Him alone, loving Him even more than life itself.

After you finish reading the Scripture, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together – that your conversation, your words, etc. will be pleasing to God and uplifting to others.

Recap your past week (5-10 minutes)

- How did you see some of the lessons learned from **Daniel 2** at work in your life this past week?
- In what ways was your "cultural engagement philosophy" tested this past week?

Stay together to answer these questions as a debrief of the sermon (40 minutes). *There are several questions here, pick some out that you think your group needs to talk through.*

- From this week's sermon, what challenged you? Inspired you? Grabbed your attention?
- As you think about **Daniel 3**, what do you think gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego the courage to not bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue?
- When was a time in your life where you had to display a similar bout of courage against something ungodly? What happened? What consequences (good or bad) came as a result of you standing firm? What was the impetus that drove you to stand firm?



- In this sermon, Dan talked about the need for spiritual discernment regarding the idols of our day. What idols do you think are most prevalent in our culture today? While honoring the home you grew up in, what idols do you think were most prevalent in your family growing up? Which ones do you struggle against personally?
- Have each person in your group take one of the following passages. Have them read it to themselves and then give them a few moments to think on the passage. Have them think about what their verse is telling them about idolatry and the nature of it. Have them also try and consider the context that their specific verse was written in. Then, once everyone has had enough time to read and ponder the passage, have each person read the verse(s) aloud and share what they think God's Word says about idolatry from these places.

Verses to read and share: **Exodus 20:3-6; Psalm 135:15-18; Isaiah 45:20; Jonah 2:8; Matthew 6:33 Romans 1:18-23; 1 Corinthians 10:14; and 1 John 5:21.**

- What do you think it looks like today to practically discern what is idolatrous and what is not today? What are two to three ways a Christian can discern what is pleasing to God and what is not?
- **Read Psalm 46:1; Isaiah 41:10; 2 Chronicles 20:15-17.** What does your felt sense of God's divine presence tend to be like whenever you go through a trial in life? Does He feel very real and very close? Or does His presence feel far away? How do the passages you just read speak into that?

Transition to smaller same-gender groups for accountability (10-15 minutes). *Ask some of the questions below to hold one another accountable. Don't feel like you have to use this list like a checklist. If needed, feel free to stop, dive deeper, and pray over one another.*

- Where has idolatry been present in your actions this past week? Where has idolatry been present in your thought life this past week?
- How can this group help you to "flee from idolatry" this week?
- How have you used your words and actions to point your friends and family towards Jesus this week?
- What has your prayer time been like this week?
- What has your time in Scripture been like this week?



- In what ways have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- How can we pray for you?

Take a few moments to pray over each other for resilient devotion to God this week.

Finish with intercessory prayer in your split groups (10 minutes)

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.