



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Study to show "The Way of True Life." Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: **Courage**
TEXT: **Daniel 3**

Instructions: *Read the above passages each time you come together to study this topic so everyone can participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information and develop follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: In children's worship, I asked the kids to talk about a time when they had experienced fear in facing a situation - when they had said, "I can't do that"-and then got past their fear. For Bethany, it was taking a giant leap on the jungle gym. (She demonstrated with chairs, her dress swirling in the air.) It was Amanda's first day of school, and she was anxious about whether the other kids would like her.

The times in your life when you are likely to say, "No, God, I can't" may be similar. It might be an act of physical endurance (giving birth, for example!). It might be an extensive job interview. Or it might be standing up to an unethical client. The courageous choice that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego made was not to bow down to a secular idol, even though it could cost them their prestigious jobs in the king's house or even their lives strikingly contemporary.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why are you fearful in certain situations? Describe an "I can't" you have conquered.
2. Among the characters who play key roles in this story, who do you identify with and why?
3. What seems to be the motivation behind the actions of each character or group of characters?
4. Consider how the actions of each character or group of characters may have changed the outcome. What could have been different results depending on their responses?
5. How might Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego have rationalized bowing down to the idol?
6. When have you felt pressure to bow to the idols of the world?
7. In verses 16-18, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego speak with theological depth. How do they describe the relationship between our will and God's?
8. What thoughts and feelings do you experience when reading about the fourth person in the furnace (v. 25)?

9. In what ways have you experienced God's comfort in times when you took a step of courage?

10. 10. What has the king learned about God (vs. 25-30)?

11. 11. The courage of the three Hebrew men led to greater honor in God's eyes and the world (v. 30). Have you seen this result in the lives of Christians you know? Explain.

12. What would be an act of courage with God's support that could take today?