

## Based on a True Story: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

June 18-19, 2016

### Community:

1. Do you tend to reach out during hard times—leaning into other people for help or do you try to do it all by yourself? Why do you think you usually respond this way?
2. Last week you were asked to think through the hardest times of your life to possibly see the great things that God did through them. Share with the group what you discovered.

### Core:

1. Has there ever been a time in your life where you chose to do what God said...instead of doing what you thought would be better? What was the situation and what happened?
2. **Read Daniel 3:13-18.** What do you think Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's response that even if God didn't deliver them, they still wouldn't bow down and worship the idol. Are there things you've chosen to hold onto that you're willing to die for?
3. **Read Daniel 6:10 and 6:16-24.** Have you ever been thrown into a metaphorical lion's den, where the only thing that you could do was trust in God? If so, what was the outcome?
4. This week Jim Burgen went through two different stories about men who had faith in God, yet still had hard lives. Why do you think some Christians believe that if they follow Jesus, their lives will be easy? Do you believe it's true that we need to rely on Jesus' grace the more we follow Him? Explain.
5. **Read Daniel 12:13 and John 16:33.** How do you think these two verses work together and point towards Jesus? How do you hold onto Jesus and run through pain? What is one instance where you've had to do that?

### Challenge:

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:9-10.** Are you in a situation where you feel like God keeps telling you, "No," but instead, is telling you that He has you in His hands? Write down this verse and then write down "*God's grace is the only thing that is enough*". Throughout this week re-read this whenever you are experiencing doubt to remind yourself of God's loving protection. Keep it in your pocket or posted somewhere you will see regularly throughout the week.