



Sermon Discussion Guide
Even If: I Can Be Faithful
Sunday, February 7, 2021
Based on Pastor Alex's Message

Introduction

We're starting a four week series where we're looking at stories from the Old Testament about people who faced unexpected problems, and chose to trust in God and follow Him through those challenges. The question we're asking ourselves is, "Will I follow God, *even if* things don't go the way I planned?" In this first lesson we learn that even if we don't know the future, we can still be faithful.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. What's one way you've experienced God during a time of unexpected hardship?

Hear God's Story

1. Read Daniel 3 straight through, trying to imagine you're actually there seeing it all unfold. What does this story tell you about God?
2. Reread Daniel 3:16-18. What were they motivated by behind their words here?
3. Take a pause to contemplate how God was with the three of them in the fire (verse 25). How does this impact you when also thinking about your current challenges?
4. If the three gained the king's favor they were told they'd be safe. But they realized the king was a false friend using fear as the sole motivator and instead chose the furnace. In your own life, can you identify who you have been taught to fear?
5. Notice how the three stood together through this whole ordeal and experienced God together. When thinking about staying faithful to God even when it's difficult, what role does community play?
6. What's a growth area you can identify in your own spiritual life that, if strengthened, will better equip you to stand with others in their fire?

Create a New Story

7. What's one practical action step you're going to take this week to live out this lesson?

Further Studies: God's Faithful Even When We Aren't

Not long after the furnace incident king Nebuchadnezzar let things get to his head, thinking that the kingdom's prosperity was all because of him. Once again, he slipped into his false inner narrative that said it's all about him. So, God humbled him. But then, we see God hearing the king's repentance and restoring him, again. When we wonder on *why* we should be faithful to God, there are a few points in this later part of the king's story that can help give us guidance today.

Read what happened in Daniel 4:28-37, then move onto the questions below.

DISCUSS

1. What do you think contributed to the king losing sight of God?
2. What can we learn about God here?
3. How does thinking about how God has ultimate control over everything help us remain faithful to Him when times get tough?
4. How does cultivating and maintaining a spirit of teachability and humility play into all of this?
5. What challenges you the most about all we've talked about together?

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com