



**For the week of January 28, 2024**



**Hebrews 12:28, 29 (CSB)... “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful. By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.”**

This week, we will be looking at two chapters in the book of Daniel. Chapter 3 is entitled “Nebuchadnezzar’s Gold Statue” and chapter 6 is entitled “Daniel in the Lions’ Den”. Here are some key verses from each chapter you can use to study and reflect on as you think about what it means to live as a follower of Jesus with unshakable faith.

Daniel 3:16-18 (NLT)... 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. 18 But even if he doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”

#### Reflection Questions on Chapter 3 (Experiencing God Bible)

“At times the greatest act of faith is not in praying for a miracle but in trusting God without a miracle.”

- The world often views loyalty to God as disloyalty to the state. Are there ways in which your commitments to God’s ways are offensive to others?
- Do you trust God so much that you would still love and serve Him even if He chose not to deliver you from a crisis?
- How has God made His loving presence known to you as you passed through the fiery furnace (trials of this world)?

Daniel 6:25-27 (NLT)... 25 Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: "Peace and prosperity to you! 26 "I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. 27 He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

#### Reflection Questions on Chapter 6 (Experiencing God Bible)

"Daniel does not argue his case or challenge his accusers but places his life into the hand of his righteous God."

- Daniel's crisis of belief was having to choose whether to please people or to please God. Are you facing a similar crisis and what are you doing about it?
- Daniel's boss knew he continually served God. What do your friends, colleagues and family know about your walk with God?
- God honored Daniel's faithfulness. How has He honored yours?

#### IT MAY NOT BE CONVENIENT

(Excerpt From Tozer for the Christian Leader by A. W. Tozer and Ron Eggert)

"No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." 1 Corinthians 9:27, NIV

"What must our Lord think of us if His work and His witness depend upon the convenience of His people? The truth is that every advance that we make for God and for His cause must be made at our inconvenience. If it does not inconvenience us at all, there is no cross in it! If we have been able to reduce spirituality to a smooth pattern and it costs us nothing—no disturbance, no bother and no element of sacrifice in it—we are not getting anywhere with God. We have stopped and pitched our unworthy tent halfway between the swamp and the peak. We are mediocre Christians! Was there ever a cross that was convenient? Was there ever a convenient way to die? I have never heard of any, and judgment is not going to be a matter of convenience, either! Yet we look around for convenience, thinking we can reach the mountain peak conveniently and without trouble or danger to ourselves. Actually, mountain climbers are always in peril and they are always advancing at their inconvenience."

Lord, help me to serve You faithfully, with full discipline, whether it's convenient or not. Amen."

## **Announcements...**

**Join us Sunday, January 28...** After the second worship hour (approximately 11:30a.m.), we will meet in the lobby for a “light lunch” and a time to connect and get to know one another. Our praise team will provide the food in our cafe. Spend some time with us before you have to rush off. If you can’t meet us for this one, we will have another “light lunch” on Sunday, February 25.

**Mailboxes have been updated and moved around slightly. Please take a second look before you grab stuff out of your box. If you want a church mailbox, please contact Candice in the office.**

**Toddler Gym meets in the gym on Mondays from 10:00a.m. till 11:15a.m.** The group is comprised of parents and grandparents who want to get out of the house and give their little ones (Birth to Pre-K) a chance to play in a safe fun environment. This is a great opportunity to spread the word about our church family. Toddler Gym dates... January 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26; March 4, 11.

**Hempfield Food Pantry News...** Thank you for your generosity. Requested items for the month of January are: Canned fruit, Canned soup, Canned red beets, Cereal.

## **Looking Ahead...**

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14! Details will be coming about our worship schedule. Lent is the 40 days before Easter Sunday which is early this year; March 31. Our theme is entitled, “Grounding”. Lent is a time for us to pause and consider a foundational tenet of the Christian faith: we are all sinners in need of Jesus saved by His matchless and marvelous grace. During this series, you are invited to contemplate what keeps you “grounded” in this world and how can your “unshakable faith” in God make you more aware of His love and purpose as it unfolds in your life. Stay tuned...

**Those who need ongoing prayer...** Viola and Bob Bradley, Tammy and Chuck Frank, Lois Groff, Harriet Hill, Denny McFarland, Bob and Rhonda Miller, Michelle Mitterer, Galen Neideigh and family, Joanne Peters, Nancy Reitz, Lucy Robbins and family, Cheryl Scott, Lochlan Shiel, Shirley Smith, Arlene and John Yoder

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