



Lesson Title: Where He Finds Us—Faithfully Serving



Key Concept: Wherever we are, in any situation, God can find us. In the best of circumstances and in the worst of persecutions, faithfulness between God and his people remains unchanged.



Scriptures:

¹⁹Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. ²⁰Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments.

(Daniel 3:19–21 *New Living Translation*)

So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?”

(Hebrews 13:6 *New Living Translation*)

Context Scriptures: Daniel 1–3; Psalm 118:6; Deuteronomy 31:6; Hebrews 11–13; Proverbs 2:8; Psalm 143:1



Lesson Thoughts:

The Book of Daniel is filled with stories that exemplify what God’s faithfulness to his people and their faithfulness to God looks like. One particular story tells about three young Jewish men whose names were changed to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to reflect their status as captives in Babylon. Yet the measures that were taken to strip them of their Jewish identity did not diminish their heritage as children of the one true God. They, along with Belteshazzar (Daniel), demonstrated their faith when they refused to eat unacceptable foods, steadfastly prayed to God, gave God the glory for the wisdom they displayed,

and served the king well. No one impressed the king as much as these young men. But Daniel 3 records events that tried their faith even to the brink of death.

King Nebuchadnezzar built an imposing statue and sent out a command that all must bow and worship the gold statue or be thrown into a blazing furnace. When the young men refused to obey, the king gave them another chance, but they resolved not to worship the idol. It would have been easy to rationalize that since God had allowed Israel to be taken captive in the first place and the king had all power over his vast kingdom, they had no choice but to obey. But they did not waver in the face of dire consequences or at the king's angry retort, "What god will be able to rescue you from my power?" Rather, they spoke out in faith that they did not question God's ability to save them; but even if he decided not to, they still refused to worship an idol. Their faithfulness to God, not their circumstances, determined their response. In a fury, the king threw them in the furnace expecting their demise. But God's faithfulness was demonstrated to all that day when he found them serving faithfully at death's door and rescued them. And the king hailed the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Hebrews 11:33 includes faithful people, like in the Book of Daniel, who "shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword." Daniel 2:21 states that God controls the course of world events. Proverbs 2:8 assures that God protects those who are faithful to him. Psalm 143:1 promises that a faithful God hears and answers us. Through stories and verses, the Bible reveals that a faithful God will find us as we faithfully serve him.



Discussion Questions:

- 1) What does having faith in God look like when circumstances aren't perfect?
- 2) Share a Bible story/personal story where *God finds us faithfully serving*.
- 3) Is there a go-to Bible verse(s) that grounds you when your faith is challenged?
- 4) Have you received favor because of your faith? Have you been persecuted?
- 5) How does our faith (spoken or in action) affect unbelievers?

Next Lesson: Confidently Following

Notes and Reflections

- 1) Read Daniel chapter 3. Notice the details that stress the remarkable nature of the miracle (for example, the bonds were burned but their clothes were not). God is faithful down to the littlest detail! Read Matthew 10:26–31 as a New Testament parallel of God’s detailed faithfulness.
- 2) Read Hebrews 11, the “faith hall of fame” chapter, about men and women in all circumstances and walks of life who remained faithful to God. Search the Bible for the word “faithfulness.”

Notes and Reflections, cont.