

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## The Chase

**Week 3: Heroic Suffering**  
**Daniel Chapter 3**

**February 19, 2023**  
**(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)**

Sometimes, people far from God need to see believers in Christ who endure “the heat” that comes from walking through life’s challenges. As a result, God can use this to help those far from Him see how He’s constantly at work, guiding those who trust Him, even in the midst of trials.

### **Kicking It Off:**

What are some of your favorite oven-baked goodies? Do you prefer to bake them, gift them, or buy them?

### **Discussion:**

1. Setting the stage... review Daniel 3:1-7. What did King Nebuchadnezzar build, and what was he trying to make everyone do?

*“...bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar’s gold statue. Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” (Daniel 3:5b-6, NLT)*

2. Why would this decree have caused such an issue for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? (For reference, see Exodus 20:4-6.) What are some modern-day idols that we’re tempted to worship?

*“You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.” (Exodus 20:4-5a, NLT)*

3. This week Jeff described how at times God essentially says He won’t prevent a difficulty in our life, but His intervention can come by helping us *in* the difficulty. What experience from your life comes to mind when you hear this principle? How has God helped you to endure major trials in the past?

4. Jeff described how believers can feel a freedom — and even joy — as they go through the fires of life. In light of Psalm 34:18 and Isaiah 43:2, how is this possible? Meanwhile, what are some potential issues that could keep us from routinely experiencing that freedom, found in the presence of God?

*“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted” (Psalm 34:18a, NLT)*

*“When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.” (Isaiah 43:2, NLT)*

5. How did God show up and show off at the end of this story in King Nebuchadnezzar’s life? (See Daniel 3:28-30.) How does the story of John Wesley (plus Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s strong faith) inspire you to endure more trials?

### **Wrapping Up:**

What challenges are you currently facing that could use some extra God-ordained power? Take a moment to read 1 Peter 5:9-10. Pray each group member would feel God restore, support, and strengthen you to courageously stand strong in your faith.