

Sermon-Based Small Group Preparation

For the week of February 12, 2012

“Living Beyond Anxiety”

Sermon Series: *Flow* (week 5 of 7)

2 Timothy 1:7

» Please look over these questions *before* your Small Group meeting «

Getting Started

- 1) Did you have a favorite toy, blanket or other item that comforted you as a little child? What was it and what made it so special?
- 2) Would you consider yourself a risk-taker? If so, what are some of the more adventurous things you've done? Or, if you are one more likely to “color inside the lines,” give some examples of ways you've opted to play it safe.

Into the Bible

The leader will read an overview of today's focus Scripture, Daniel 1 and 3.

Read Daniel 3:1-2, 4-6

¹ King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ² He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.

⁴ Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: ⁵ As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” (NIV)

- 3) What had King Nebuchadnezzar done and for what purpose?

Daniel 3: 8 and 12 tell us that astrologers came to Nebuchadnezzar and denounced the Jews, telling the king about the three men in his court who would not follow his orders.

- 4) Have you faced any detractors in your life? Have you tried to understand what motivates them? What has been your response to them?
- 5) In which area/s of your life do you feel the most tested? Think of a time when the struggle to stand on your convictions created great anxiety. Now, think of a time when your resolve was strengthened. What made the difference?

Read Daniel 3:16-18 for their response:

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” (NIV)

- 6) What is most notable to you about their response to the king?
- 7) What can we learn about the relationship between fear and faith from the response of these young men?

