



## The Test Before Success

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*"Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart."*

Proverbs 17:3 (NLT)

### Today's Unshakable Truth:

**God tests us with stress before He trusts us with success.**

Daniel 1:1,4a (NIV)

### Four Tests Leading to Success

⇒ **The test of integrity - Remembering who you are**

Daniel 1:4b (NIV)

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

⇒ **The test of discipline - Controlling your ego and appetite**

Daniel 1:5a, 8-16, 20 (NIV)

⇒ **The test of courage - Willing to stand alone though you are not alone**

Daniel 3:16b-18, 25, 27b (NIV)

⇒ **The test of humility - Being influential with authority**

Daniel 1:17 (NIV)

Daniel 6:10-11, 16b, 19-22 (NIV)

**This Week's Spiritual Practice: Pray for your leaders every day.**

**Q—What is the greatest stress test you are facing today?**



## Study & Discussion for Your Next Small Group

Theme: *Fire Works*

**Share Together:** What is your most memorable Fourth of July and what does the freedom we have mean to you this year?

**Reflect Together:** From Sunday's Online Experience: What impacted you the most from the message and how were you able to take steps in doing the Spiritual Practice this week?

**Read Together:** Daniel 3 (Divide reading between group members)

### **Discuss Together:**

- What do you know about the Babylonians, in terms of their influence over the Hebrew people?
- What was the king's motivation in building an image for people to bow before?
- What was the motivation of the officials in reporting the three men for not being compliant?
- What are some examples of images that are built up in culture, that people bow down to?
- When have you felt the pressure to bow down to images/idols of our culture?
- Is there a time to protest as Christ followers?
- How does the response of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego show resilience of faith (refusing to bow, even if they wouldn't survive)?
- How do we change our "what if" worries into the courage to stand "even if"?
- How did God reveal himself through fire to these three men?
- How has God revealed himself through the "fire" of testing in your life?
- The resilience of three men's faith impacted a whole kingdom. How can making a firm stand for your faith affect those around you?
- What is a trial by fire you are going through now, for which you could use prayer so that you won't bow down but be resilient in faith?

**Pray Together:** Take time to share what God is doing in answering prayer and also pray over needs in your group.