

# **“Dealing With Pressure” outline & discussion guide**

Insights from Daniel 3:1-30 (Living Rooted in Babylon pt 4)

Pastor Bob Johnson, October 4th, 2020

## **1. D\_\_\_\_\_ is announced (Dan. 3:1-3)**

*King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. 2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors ..., 3 and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*  
Daniel 3:1-3 (ESV)

## **2. D\_\_\_\_\_ is expected (Dan. 3:4-7)**

*And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. 7 Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn ... all the peoples ... fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.”*  
Daniel 3:4-7 (ESV)

## **3. D\_\_\_\_\_ is noticed (Dan. 3:8-12)**

*At that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. 9 They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! 10 You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn ... shall fall down and worship the golden image. 11 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. 12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”*  
Daniel 3:8-12 (ESV)

## **4. D\_\_\_\_\_ is warned (Dan. 3:13-15)**

*Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”*  
Daniel 3:13-15 (ESV)

## 5. **D\_\_\_\_\_ is described** (Dan. 3:16-18)

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."*  
Daniel 3:16-18 (ESV)

## 6. **D\_\_\_\_\_ is over** (Dan. 3:19-23)

*Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury ... He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. ... 22 the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23 And these three men ...fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.*  
Daniel 3:19-23 (ESV)

## 7. **D\_\_\_\_\_ is given** (Dan. 3:24-27)

*Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" ... 25 "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods." 26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!"*  
Daniel 3:24-27 (ESV)

## 8. **D\_\_\_\_\_ is expressed** (Dan. 3:28-30)

*Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.*  
Daniel 3:28-30 (ESV)

### **Practices When Pressure Builds:**

- 1. Don't wait ...**
- 2. Don't stand ...**
- 3. Don't be ...**
- 4. Don't forget ...**

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## **GPC's "Living Rooted in Babylon" Small Group Discussion of Daniel 3:1-30 Week 4 of our Study and Discussion of Daniel 1-6**

**Check - in...** Choose one of the following questions or provide your own:

How is tomorrow going to be different than today?

You are picked as one of the first 100,000 to colonize Mars. Would you go? Why or why not?

**Pause and Pray:** Be still and know that He is God...God who is present with you, loving you. Surrender yourself to His love. Let's open our hearts, lives and minds to whatever it is He wants to do with us. (pause)... Pray with one another.

**Look back on your message outline or look back over Daniel 3:1-30**

What has continued to resonate with you from Sunday's message? Why?

**Digging Deeper: What a story!** Let's unpack it a bit and see how God leads us:

### **I. Pressure**

Ever since the Tower of Babel, people have sinned against God by living independently from Him & working hard to make a name for themselves. We see this with Nebuchadnezzar so clearly.

How do you see this in our world currently?

Do you fold to this pressure or resist this pressure? How?

We discussed last week that when we fear God (hold HIM in the highest regard and highest position in our lives) we need not fear anything else. How do you see this play out in Daniel 3? Nebuchadnezzar said "Bow or burn". The world says if you don't bow (go along with) the world values, you will be burned (ripped off or live a less fulfilled life).

What does the world say life can be found pursuing? What is most tempting for you to consider?

### **II. Principles**

Who determines the principles you live by?

When God reveals Himself and His principles of life, do you respond dependently, hesitantly or defiantly?

Conviction: the state of being convinced. After hearing from the serpent, Eve was convinced to take fruit from the tree, eat it and share with her husband. Noah, living in a completely corrupt culture was convinced to walk closely with God for 600 years and build an ark before there had been one drop of rain on the earth. After hearing from Nebuchadnezzar, the three men were convinced to stand for God at their own peril.

Take a moment. What would you identify your top three convictions to be?

Putting yourself in the story, standing before a golden stature. Would what you are convinced of cause you to remain standing? How does even thinking about all of this make you feel?

Why? Pastor Bob shared it is important to be prepared, to know your convictions ahead of time and avoid deciding on principles to live by in the heat of moment. Don't expect others to applaud, be prepared to stand alone. Are there any convictions that you sense God is inviting you to consider, reconsider or commit to stand in today? Ask the group for prayer if needed.

### **III. Power**

What defines me? What controls me? What frustrates me? Who is bigger to me, not just in thought but in action - God, people, world, myself? These are all questions that help us know what has power over us. How did Nebuchadnezzar answer these? The three young men? You?

### **IV. Promises**

If we are God's children, we can always rely on the promises of God; we can always rest assured in Him, His love, His presence, His principles, His power. As you read the following grace-filled promises of God, which one resonates with you the most right now? Why? Do these help you identify and solidify your convictions?

*"To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory." Isaiah 61:3*

*"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion..." Philipians 1:6*

*"And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His promises" Romans 8:28*

*"Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God" Romans 8:38-39*

*"He (Jesus) who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." 1 John 4:4*

*"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1*

*Jesus said, "All authority has been given to me...and I will be with you to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18, 20*

*He has said, "I will never [under any circumstances] desert you [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], nor will I forsake or let you down or relax My hold on you [assuredly not!]" So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently say, "The Lord is my Helper [in time of need], I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?" Hebrews 13:5-6 Amplified*

*"God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne." Psalm 47:8*

### **V. Communion** - Lord's Supper reflection...

If you were attending one of our services last Sunday, what was it like drinking from a juice box and eating a saltine cracker? Did it feel funny? sacrilegious? Why ... Why not?

Rather than looking to our circumstances and what God allows us to experience, endure and not presently heal us from ... Is the cross of Christ enough for you to be convinced of God's love for you? Is what Jesus did enough for you to live for loving Him?