

Suggested Discussion Questions for 5/21/2023

Message: Thriving with Daniel, pt 4 (Dan 3)

1. Put yourself in the frame of mind of being a member of a Chinese church as reflected in the opening letter from their pastor. What thoughts/feelings/responses do you have?
2. Reread the chapter putting yourself in the mental and emotional state of Daniel's friends. What clues do we get from the text as to what was going through their minds? What would be going through yours?
3. What does the text indicate drove Nebuchadnezzar to his unreasonable demands?
4. How does Nebuchadnezzar's journey help us prepare for thriving in a hostile government?
5. This text contains the interplay of conformity and courageous conviction. What specifics do you see? How do they encourage or challenge you?
6. A pinnacle in this account is the clear understanding of God's ability to deliver but the trust to surrender even if He doesn't. How do you react to this? How does it help you face all manner of difficulty in life?
7. What is your response to the statement: "When you take a stand, you will usually get one more chance to compromise."

Have you experienced this personally? What do you gain from this passage to help you should this happen in the future?

8. Is there a place in your life where you are pulled to bow to something other than God? Does it help you to think about the place of autonomy and authority in the pull?
9. Nebuchadnezzar has a penchant for bursts of insight with no lingering impact. What were his insights? What did he do with them? Why is this a common scenario and how do you avoid doing the same thing?
10. Formulate one question from this passage that you would like the group to discuss.