**Dare to Lead – part 3 Take a Stand! Leader Notes**

**Daniel 3**

**HOOK
1. Have you ever faced an ethical challenge at work? What kind of ethical issue is important enough that you’d be willing to get fired over?**

**2. What current social issue hooks you the most? What stand have you taken on that issue?**

 **BOOK/LOOK**

**3. Read Daniel 3:4-6. Nebuchadnezzar tried to unify different nations in his kingdom with the worship of a golden image. Is religion a unifier of people groups in Canada or a point that divides us?**

**4. Read Ex. 20:4,5: What was the conflict for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?**

**5. How do the king’s words in Daniel 3:15 reflect the real battle going on?** (It’s a battle of the king vs. Yahweh, the creator of heaven and earth).

**6. What gave Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego the courage to stand tall when everybody else bowed low?** (Strong spiritual convictions, faith in God’s ability to intervene, living in the presence of the king of kings)

**7. What is the most common reason for not taking stand over a moral issue?**

 a. Everyone else is doing it (peer pressure)

 b. Lack of conviction

 c. The end justifies the means

 d. Fear of consequences

**8. Read Daniel 3:16-18. What did the 3 young men believe to be true about God?**

**a. “Our God is able** **to save us” (3:17)**. (God is able to do anything!)

**b. “He will rescue us from your hand” (3:17) (**God will act on our behalf; the hand of the king is always under submission to the hand of God).

**c. “But even if He doesn’t, we won’t bow!** **(3:18)** (Sometimes God doesn’t perform miracles; God requires obedience no matter what)

**9. Which faith is greater? To believe God will deliver us, or to believe in God even if he doesn’t rescue us? How does Jesus’ prayer in the garden of Gethsemane illustrate great faith?**

**10. Read Matt. 10:32,33: What does Jesus do when you stand up for him?**  (He’ll stand up for you).

**11. Read Daniel 3:25. Where is God found in this story?** (In the fire with those who took a stand for Him).

**12. How do Isaiah 43:1-3 and Romans 8:39 bring us comfort?**

**TOOK**

**11. Tell about a time when you took a stand for Jesus. Did things get worse, were you delivered, or did you get closer to God in the moment?**

**12. Who is one of your heroes of faith in the Bible or in history** (Martin Luther, Polycarp, John Chrysostum)?

**13. What situation are you facing that you are praying God shows up in?**

**14. How do you feel pressured by our culture (and tempted by the devil) to put God in second place?**

**15. What motivates you to stay true to God in difficult situations?**

**Pray for each other and also the persecuted church in your small group.**