



Small Group Discussion Prompts

The Discussion Prompts are provided to dig deeper into a sermon with the respective title mentioned on the right side of this guide (you can find the sermons at www.manheimbic.org/sermon).

Connect
Care
Challenge

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship. Just arrive after a long week of all kind of things. - Ask: Who are you personally?

Carry each others burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Cry together. Support each other. Pray together. - Ask: How are you doing?

Dive into God's word to learn from each others insight. Encourage & challenge each other to a godly life. - Ask: What is God teaching us today?

Key Bible passage: **Daniel 3**

For kids who grew up with Bible stories, this is one of the staples for **Trusting God** even when your faith is being challenged. Pastor Dustin did a great job in leading us through the tough life that these three young men -Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego- had to learn to adjust to. So many changes, so many adjustments to the new normal. Yet they remained true to one thing: **Their God!**

With the new normal that we had to just to in the past couple months, how can you make sure that you don't compromise your allegiance to God? What does it mean to be true to God?

Task 1: Think of two or three future situations or conversations where your allegiance to God might be challenged in your life or work. A boss asking you to do something that doesn't line up with God's values. A habit that takes time away, or just distracts, from your daily walk with God. What is it that challenges your allegiance to God? What will your response be? Plan ahead.

Now think beyond your immediate surrounding. Where can you stand (up) for a person or community that is being persecuted for their faith in Jesus? (**Task 2**) Don't think political. Don't think far away. Think **immediate**. What is a christian faith group you can stand with as they face adversity? And what are practical ways you can support them?

Let's shift our thinking now to the bold statement of our three friends: "Even if God doesn't deliver us, ..." They knew that they could face death. But here is where we can ask: What's the worst that could happen? Or flip that question and ask, what's the best that could happen to them? As Christians we know that **the best is yet to come**. Remember that song (look it up if you don't):

"Heaven is a wonderful place, filled with glory and grace. I want to see my Saviors face. Heaven is a wonderful place."

Task 3: What daily habits can you form to be reminded of God's Power, Love and Grace? What can help you be reminded that there is a brighter future awaiting all those who trust in God? Walking alongside that alley of trees of life. Drinking coffee in the Golden Street Café, with the view onto the crystal lake. Listening to music from all the famous musicians that have gone before us. And best of all, chatting, laughing, and enjoying a good time with God the Father, his son Jesus, and his mysterious and magnificent Holy Spirit.

What helps you focus on the-things-to-come, and say: "For me, living is Christ and dying is gain." (Philippians 1:21) ?

One more thing: Remember that Jesus showed up in the furnace even though hadn't died yet.

Task 4: How have you experienced the "fourth man in the furnace"? Where in your life has Jesus shown up? Share this experience. Write a small post on Facebook. Share it in a blog post. Call up a friend and brag about your God. Make it a point to keep YOUR story with Jesus alive.

Know what's to do next, with the studies text, within the group, and in general. Have a mission for the week. - Ask: How do we apply what we have learned?

Celebrate life's success and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to *brag* about God. - Ask: What has God done in our life that deserves praise?

ADVENTURE: Daniel's Three Friends

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

