

Bringing It Home

7. We seldom face a blazing furnace, but we all have problems and times of crisis that we go through. Think about a time when God has met you in the middle of such an experience and write it down below. (If you are comfortable, share it with your group.)

8. What areas in your life right now are you tempted to “avoid the furnace”?

What do you think God wants to say to you about these areas in your life?

FOURTH MAN IN THE FURNACE

Daniel 3

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” Daniel 3:16–18

HERE’S THE POINT...

- ➔ We hope to be delivered _____ the furnace,
but sometimes God decides to deliver us _____ the furnace.
- ➔ Jesus says, “I’ll _____ in the furnace.”

DANGER:

- ➔ When the main focus of your life as a Christian becomes

PRAY A DANGEROUS PRAYER:

- ➔ “God, give me an opportunity to show my _____ to you.”

Many thanks to John Ortberg, whose sermon with the same title was a resource for this one.

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of February 14, 2010

Warm Up

1. Think about a dangerous activity you have done. How did it feel before you did it? How do you feel when you think about it now?

2. Have you ever had a bad experience with fire? What happened?

Digging In

3. Deep down, all of us want to be “furnace-avoiders.” We want to skip the pain and enjoy life. As we learned on Sunday, we often go through the best experiences with God by going through the furnace. Read **Philippians 2:5-11**. In your own words, how would you describe what happened to Jesus in verses **9-11**?

4. What did Jesus have to go through before all this happened (**verses 6-8**)?

5. Read **Matthew 4:8-11**. Here Satan offers Jesus “all the kingdoms of the world” if Jesus would bow down to Him. In light of what you wrote in question #4, why would Satan’s offer be tempting to Jesus?

6. On Sunday, Pastor John talked about praying a dangerous prayer: “God, give me an opportunity to show my devotion to you.” What does God promise when you show your devotion to Him in **Isaiah 43:1-2**?

(More questions are on the back....)