

## Discussion Guide

“Diamonds from Dust” – Week 5

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### Opening Doors...

1. What are the idols of our day? Why do you think they have such appeal in our culture?
2. In the moments when we feel convicted to stand against popular opinion, what are some of the fears we face? On the flip side of this tension, what do you see as an encouragement to honor your convictions?

### Digging In...

1. We've seen Daniel work through the test of violating his convictions in Daniel 1. Now his three friends are challenged to bow down before an image of King Nebuchadnezzar. Their refusal to do so isn't based on a like/dislike of the king but on their belief in the first two Commandments.

- Read Daniel 3:13-18. At this point, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would determine who they were going to offend—Nebuchadnezzar or God? What would compel a person to choose faithfulness to God in this situation? What's wrong with outwardly bowing while inwardly standing?
- Read Matthew 10:26-32. Jesus also recognizes the reality of offending people as we follow Him. No one makes it through untested! What practical instruction do you hear from Jesus concerning these moments of testing?



**2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were fully confident in God's ability to deliver them from the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:17), and sure enough, God was glorified when they walked from the fire without a burn or even a smell of smoke (Daniel 3:26-28)!**

- **If you were one of the three, when would you have wanted God to provide deliverance from the fire? Read Isaiah 43:1-2. What does God promise us when we're confronted with times of testing? Why doesn't He just part the waters and quench the fires for us all the time?**

- **This story ended with deliverance of the three Hebrew children on this side of eternity, but sometimes the story has a different ending. Read Hebrews 11:36-38. What kept those believers faithful? If the miracle of deliverance comes on the other side of eternity, are we any less persuaded to stand?**

### **Taking It Home...**

- 1. How will you define your Stand-up, Speak-Up moments?**
- 2. How can you recognize the presence of God when "the heat is on?"**

