

## LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:

### DIGGING DEEPER (CONT.)

- Of the three mentioned who failed after success (Moses, David, Solomon), which “downfall causer” would you say is illustrated by their story? (Use your general knowledge of these stories, or read the stories: Moses: Numbers 20:8-13; David: 2 Samuel 11; Solomon: 1 Kings 11.)
- Read through the Moses section in Numbers 20. Was it fair of God to punish Moses after everything Moses had done for God and the Israelites? Why did God come down so hard on Moses for what might look to us like a minor infraction?

### TAKING IT HOME

1. What test of success are you facing (failing?) in life right now? Are you handling it well? What would you do to handle it better?
2. At the close of Pastor Mark’s sermon, he discussed four things that Nebuchadnezzar learned about God. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was that God’s approval matters more than all other’s approval. Whose approval do you seek? Why do you think this is?
3. Nebuchadnezzar had his (big!) issues, but it looks like he finished strong. What attitudes do you need to have towards God and others to finish strong?

## SUNDAY MAR. 12, 2017

**Series:** “Unshakeable” / The book of Daniel

**Message #6:** “Thriving when God tests you with success”

*This message is available on your phone/tablet through YouVersion app. Download app. Click on “more”. Then “events”. Then “First Free Church”.*

### MESSAGE NOTES:

#### Success can bring trouble when:

- We get **comfortable** with it.
- We don’t pay attention to the **warning** signs.
- We **put off** doing what we know is right.

#### To experience restoration from struggles with success:

- **Look up** to God.
- **Wake up** to God’s greatness.
- **Speak up** about God.

#### To experience stability during times of success, remember:

- God’s kingdom will outlast **your work**.
- God’s **approval** matters most.
- God’s power is **absolute**.
- God never makes **mistakes**.

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#### Action steps from today’s sermon:

1. What step will you take to focus more on God’s greatness?
2. Who is one person in your life to whom you will “speak up” about God?

## LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:

### QUICK REVIEW

After hearing Pastor Mark's message, how would you react to the following statement? "Success is as much a test in your life as is suffering."

### MY STORY

1. If someone says to you, "I have good news, and I have bad news," which do you want to hear first? Why?
2. Describe the most humbling experience in your life. What did you learn from it?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. In Daniel 4:27, after Daniel has given Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of the dream, Daniel tells the king to repent, and maybe God won't do this to you (my paraphrase). Does this mean God would change His mind? Does God ever change His mind? Look up the following verses that seem to come down on two sides of this issue. How do you reconcile these ideas?
  - Verses that seem to say God changes His mind: Jeremiah 18:7-11; The Book of Jonah (especially Jonah 3:10); Genesis 6:6 (God was sorry He made man.); Exodus 32:1
  - Verses that say God does not change (or, change His mind): Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; Psalm 102:25-27; James 1:17
2. 1 John 2:16 lists three "downfall causers." Read this verse and put these three issues in your own words.
  - The Bible gives us examples of people who failed after success (Moses, David, Solomon, for example); those who failed then succeeded (Peter, James), and those who handled success well (Joseph, Esther).