

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:

DIGGING DEEPER

4. How we walk through challenges and trials and how God sustain us, whether or not He delivers us, will leave a lasting testimony.
 - Read Luke 22:42; look over Acts 16; read Hebrews 11:35-40, 13:5. Although in each of these examples, the righteous suffered, the (earthly) outcome was quite different. How is each situation an example of suffering leading to a testimony of God's greatness?

TAKING IT HOME

1. What's the bottom-line message of this chapter, for you? (Don't worry if your takeaway is different from others in your group.)

2. How does your story of trial(s) enable you to be a testimony? In other words, what can others learn about God as they consider your own journey through struggles and trials?

SUNDAY MAR. 5, 2017

Series: "Unshakeable" / The book of Daniel

Message #5: "Thriving when the heat is on"

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MESSAGE NOTES:

How to thrive when facing persecution and trials:

1. Be **prepared**.

2. Be **aware**.

3. Be **confident** in God.

4. Be **faithful**.

5. Be a living **testimony**.

Action steps from today's sermon:

1. What step can you take to prepare yourself for trials yet to come?
2. Who is one person in your life to whom you can be a living testimony?

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:

QUICK REVIEW

Do you remember hearing this story (Daniel 3) as a child? What new thoughts from Nat's message stuck with you?

MY STORY

1. What is the hottest you can remember being? Do you prefer weather that is really hot or really cold?

2. What is the most "fiery" test you can remember experiencing? How did you fare?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read the following Scripture sections from the Book of Job: Job 1:21-22; Job 13:15; Job 42: 1-2.
 - How are these passages similar to, or how do they speak to the passage we focused on in this week's message, Daniel 3?

 - Daniel's friends were rescued from the furnace. They even had a visible companion with them in the flames. Job, however, went all the way through his trials. Although He never doubted that God was with him, he was not rescued. How can we reconcile the sovereignty of God whether the result of the trial is triumph or tragedy?
2. Read Romans 8:28-29, 35-39. How do these verses teach us that suffering is necessary whether or not it seems fair?
3. Have you ever been faced with someone else's suffering and tried to comfort them with God's love? What did you learn from that situation. Is it better to comfort someone who is going through a trial, or is it better to remain silent?