

HOPE

A Good Place to Find Life

Small Group Discussion Guide — May 31, 2026

- Series: I Declare
 - Sermon: If Not
 - Scripture: Daniel 3: 16-18
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CONNECT

What makes you stand to your feet and cheer?

FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Has there been a time this past week when your perspective on immediate pain (suffering, hardship, brokenness) shifted from your knowledge *about* God to a more intimate knowledge *of* God? How has your pain helped you see God more clearly?

ENGAGE

Read Daniel 3: 16-18.

1. In your own words, how do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respond to King Nebuchadnezzar after he demands that they worship the idol he erected?
2. What do you notice about the balance between confidence (“God is able”) and surrender (“even if He does not”)?
3. Why do you think their faith and courage were so compelling in that moment?
4. What does their response reveal about how they viewed themselves in relation to God?

APPLY

All the characters in this sermon series interpret their circumstances through God. This is the reverse of how many of us operate most of the time — we interpret God through our circumstances. In other words, we let our circumstances dictate what we believe about Him, rather than the other way around.

It’s a good thing to wrestle with what we believe to be unequivocally and enduringly true about God. This can help us interpret everything else in life, even the hardest losses.

Take a moment to complete the following “I declare” statements, to remind yourself of who God is and how you can trust Him. As you’re comfortable, share with your group over the coming week. It will serve as encouragement to each other and also help you pray for one another.

Unclear to me right now:

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1. I declare _____
 2. I declare _____
 3. I declare _____
 4. I declare _____
 5. I declare _____

PRAYER

Father, thank You for making Yourself known to us through the Scriptures and through Jesus. In You, we see a love that pursues us, a mercy that saves us, and a grace that covers us completely.

When we find ourselves in difficult places—discouraged, confused, or unable to see the way forward—remind us of who You are. Remind us that You are never surprised or overwhelmed by our circumstances, and that You are faithfully working all things together for the good of those who love You. We do love You, Lord, and we thank You that You loved us first. Amen.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Daniel 3: 19-27

Isaiah 43: 1-3

Isaiah 45:5

2 Kings 17:36

Acts 17: 24-25

QUOTES

“For a spiritual life is simply a life in which all that we do comes from the centre, where we are anchored in God: a life soaked through and through by a sense of His reality and claim, and self-given to the great movement of His will.”

Evelyn Underhill

“The sweetest thing in all my life has been the longing — to reach the Mountain, to find the place where all the beauty came from.”

C.S. Lewis, Till We Have Faces

“Never forget in the darkness what you learned in the light.”

Joseph Bailey