The Courage to Say No

Wyatt Martin // January 30, 2022 Daniel 3

Big Idea: Exiles represent Jesus by rejecting the idols of their culture.

Exile: A citizen of God's kingdom who lives in the tension of being in the world but not of it.

Exiles represent Jesus by rejecting the idols of their culture.

1. Exiles say no when everyone else is saying yes.

Idol: Anything that is more central to your <u>happiness</u>, <u>purpose</u>, or <u>identity</u> than God.

- 2. When the heat is turned up, exiles turn to hope.
- 3. When exiles stay faithful, God shows up.

Closing photo is of August Landmesser on June 13, 1936

Sermon questions

Meet Daniel. A man who stayed radically faithful to God and thrived in his faith while living right in the middle of one of the most godless kingdoms of all time. He has a lot to teach us about what it looks like to be an exile—a citizen of God's kingdom who lives in the tension of being in the world but not of it. We are continuing our series in Daniel, and our passage this Sunday is **Daniel 3.** The Big Idea is *Exiles represent Jesus by rejecting the idols of their culture.*

Use these questions to discuss the message from Sunday, focusing on how you can **grow** as an everyday follower of Jesus and how you can **go** accomplish what Jesus calls you to do.

Read Daniel 3

1.	What do	you think it loo	ks like to worship	idols in our o	culture today?
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2. Which idols of our culture are most dangerous for you?

3.	Reread Daniel 3:15 . Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced being throw in the fiery furnace for staying faithful. What are the consequences of staying faithful to Jesus that you potentially face right now?
4.	Reread Daniel 3:16-18 . How can you grow in choosing hope rather than fight or flight when you face the heat from our culture?
5.	Nebuchadnezzar praises God because of the faithfulness of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (vs. 28-29). As the church Goes towards people who need the gospel, have you ever seen the faithfulness of believers change the perspective of those who don't know Jesus?