

SERMON GUIDE

THE POLITICS OF IDENTITY

Daniel 3:1-25 | Pastor Tim Prince

June 18, 2023

Faith Community Church | fcchudson.com

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Monday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- Scripture that stands out to you while you read
- Observations you are making about a passage
- Applications that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- Prayer that invites God to participate in all that you do

Conversation Questions

Getting to Know Me: Have you ever been in a situation where there was enormous pressure to do something that you knew was wrong? What did you do?

Read Daniel 3:1-30

S: What verses, phrases, words, or feelings stand out to you as you read this text? Is anything "illuminated," surprising, or jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?

O: Let's give Nebuchadnezzar the benefit of the doubt for just a moment. What positive outcomes do you think Nebuchadnezzar was after in this story? What good things would unity at this event have produced for the people of Babylon?

Where did Nebuchadnezzar go wrong? What truths about God was he choosing to ignore or forget in this story?

O: What kinds of thoughts and feelings do you think Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego experienced throughout the story?

What kinds of conversations do you think these three men had before this event? Have you ever faced a similar situation?

O: What stands out to you most about Shadrach Meshach and Abednego's response to king Nebuchadnezzar (16-18)?

What truths about God do you think must have been most real to their hearts to inspire this kind of response?

A: If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?

A: What truths about God will be most important to help you to be faithful when there is enormous pressure on you to conform to something that you know is wrong?

P: Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction that you need.