**The Story Sunday Morning Discussion Group Week 18**

In the Lower Story Daniel finds himself away from home

King Nebuchadnezzar’s demand creates a fiery ordeal

Daniel and the lion’s den

In the Upper Story we find ourselves away from home

Discussion questions:

1. When Daniel and his three friends became prisoners of war, they were pressured to change many things as part of their “training” process (Daniel 1). What concessions were they willing to make and where did they draw the line and say no? Why do you think they drew the line where they did?
2. What is an example of an area where you have said, “I draw the line here and I will not cross it”? What has happened as you have made this stand and maintained your integrity?
3. When Daniel heard of King Nebuchadnezzar’s seemingly impossible request (Daniel 2:1-18), he asked his three friends to pray and seek the face of God with him. Why is prayer the right response in this critical moment of Daniel’s story? What is one situation you are facing right now that needs prayer?
4. Once God answered the prayers of Daniel and his friends, Daniel lifted up an amazing prayer of praise (Daniel 2:20-23). What do you learn about Daniel’s understanding of God in this prayer and how might this shape the way you pray?
5. As Daniel explained the king’s dream and its interpretation, he was careful to not take credit but give all the glory to God (Daniel 2:27-30). In what ways can we be tempted to take credit for what God does? How can we give him the glory instead?
6. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood face to face with King Nebuchadnezzar and told him they would not bow down and commit idolatry, even if it cost them their lives. Where does this kind of strength and integrity come from? Tell about a situation where you faced real pressure to compromise biblical truth.
7. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego ended up in the furnace, they discovered they were not alone (Daniel 3:25). Describe a furnace time in your life when God showed up in a very personal and powerful way.
8. Despite Daniel’s Lower Story struggle of persecution and oppression, what were some of the ways God was working in the Upper Story? Why is it so important that we slow down occasionally and take note of how God is working in the Upper Story of our lives?

Homework: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had each other. Though prisoners of war, this small community of faithful friends could band together in prayer and obedience. Make work of building this kind of network in your life. If you have one, be intentional about strengthening it. If you don’t, begin praying for and looking for people of integrity who can become long-term friends and supporters.

For next week, please read Chapter 19 of The Story (Ezra 1-6, Haggai 1-2, Zechariah 1, 8).