

CHAPTER SIX VERSES & EVENTS

COLORING BOOK ALL-STARS

TODAY'S VERSES

DANIEL 3:16-18
DANIEL 11:2
DANIEL 1:6-7
DANIEL 11:2-13
DANIEL 21:3

DANIEL 2:5
DANIEL 2:10-13
DANIEL 2:27-28
DANIEL 31:2
DANIEL 3:5-6

DANIEL 3:8-20
DANIEL 3:24-26
DANIEL 3:28-30
DANIEL 4:29-31
MATTHEW 7:13-14

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

Come out August 22nd from 8:15a-9:15a for fellowship, food and a brief message. Bring the guys from your GC, your teen son or a neighbor!

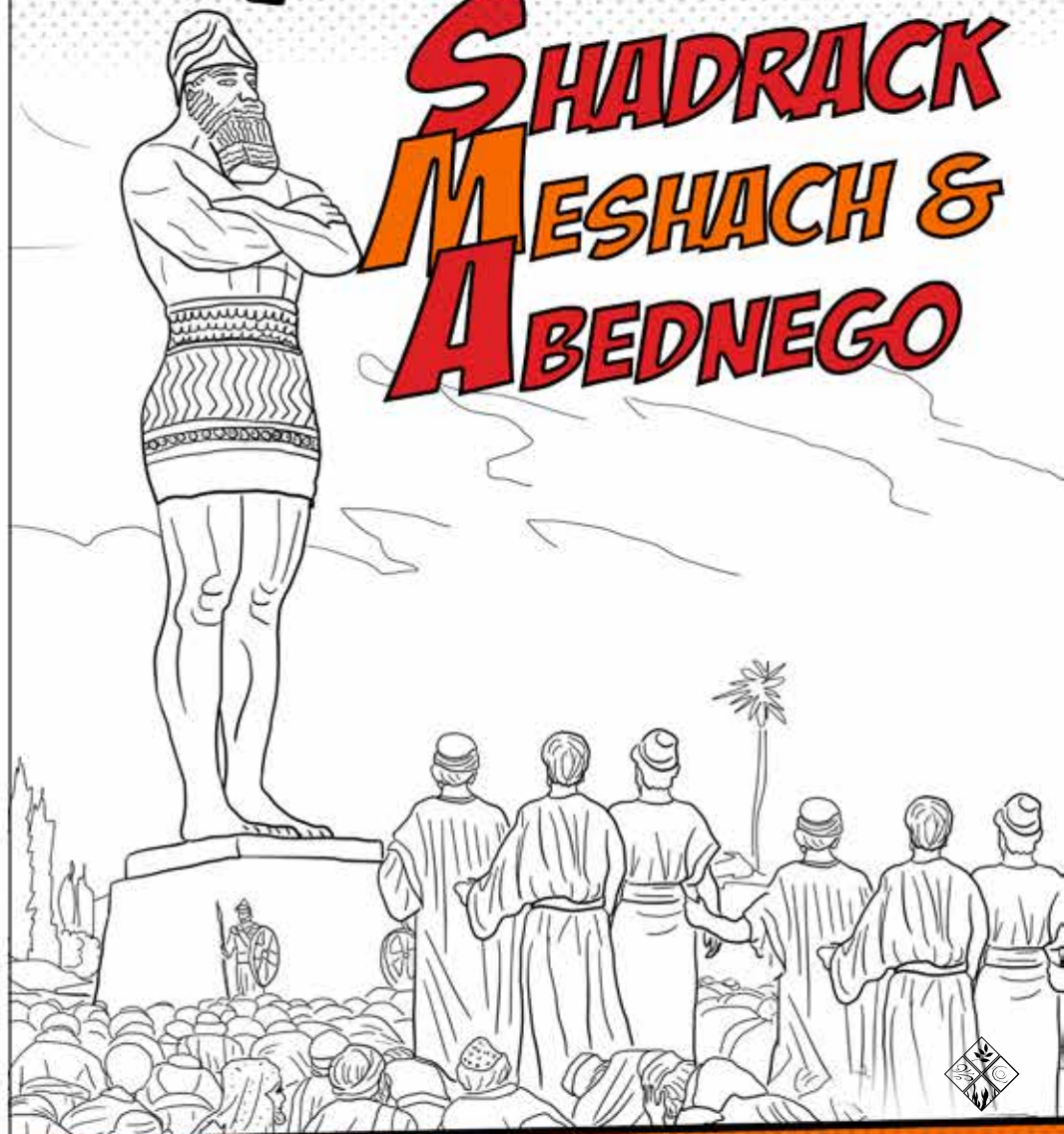
MEN'S BREAKFAST

REDEMPTION GROUPS

A 9 week look into the Exodus story & Christ's Redemptive love bought from slavery into freedom. 8/28-10/24 (times vary) redemption@ourelement.org ourelement.org/redemption

The Women of Element are planning a Bunco party THIS Friday, August 7th, here at Element! Grab your girlfriends for a night of fun! Sign up at the Welcome Center

LADIES BUNCO



SHADRACK MESHACH & ABEDNEGO

Read Daniel 1-4

Welcome to week six of the coloring book all stars, where we look at the dream team of Biblical characters and stories. This week we are looking in the book of Daniel, specifically the story of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and the fiery furnace. We learn that this story is a story about identity and control, not just a cool example of faith when a believer is being tested.

What do you want more than anything? What do you do to get what you want?

The way we answer these questions is critically important. It shows where our heart is and where we view our identity. A lot of people will answer these questions with answers like "I want to be happy," or, "I want to have enough money so I don't have to worry about money." The problem with answers like this is that they reflect that WE want to be in control.

If we get what we always want then we think life will be good, but we are constantly learning through scripture that this is a lie. Our lives and the way this world functions is not about us, it is about God. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted to be worshiped above all things, he wanted to be adored, and he wanted people to believe he was in control. He built the furnace to help him get what he wanted. Nebuchadnezzar believes things only work if he is in control.

What happens (how do you respond) when you don't get what you want?

I hope you don't build a furnace and throw people who don't agree with you in it like Nebuchadnezzar, but we probably all get upset. In reality we are supposed to humble ourselves and submit our lives to God, but more often than not we try to distance ourselves from others, or attempt to take control of situations.

Read Daniel 3:16 – Discuss the implications of this passage.

Name which false gods you are willing to serve in your life. Where in your life do you stand up in faith in God's saving power against false gods?

The three amigos don't abandon hope in God, even when things look terribly bleak. They are willing to continue to submit to God. The most

powerful part of this story for me (Jon) is that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego have a clear answer to the identity question. They are firmly rooted in the truth that God has them, and He is the only person that can save...even if God does not deliver them from their suffering; they know HE IS STILL WORTHY OF WORSHIP!

What kind of parents did you have? Does this affect the way you view God?

The sermon talked about four different parenting styles that arise to answer children's two fundamental questions: 1) Am I loved? 2) Can I get what I want? The way this plays out is seen in the following four ways to answer those two questions:

- **No you are not loved, Yes you can have your own way.** This parenting posture defeats children and sets them up for failure. Children don't understand the idea that "no" can be the most loving word they will ever learn.
- **No/No is a very rule bound depressing relationship.** That is how Nebuchadnezzar functions as a king. He gives orders and expects everyone else to obey no matter how insane his requests may be.
- **Yes/Yes indulges children to the point where they think they are little gods** (like Nebuchadnezzar). It tells kids they are wonderful even when they are acting like little tyrants. Yes/Yes in reality turns out to be No/Yes because it is a parenting style based upon trying to make our own lives easier by giving children whatever they want (rather than giving children what they need).
- **Yes I love you AND No you can't have what you want is a place a strength and delight.** You set boundaries for your children because you love them; you want them to know they are not the boss. This is how God loves us!

What kind of parent is God to us?

When has God said "no" to you?

When has God said "no" to others you know and they have struggled with their understanding of Him?

How can you help others to see God as a Yes/No God?