



LESSON 2: FAITHFUL WORSHIP

Biblical Passages: Daniel 3:1–30

As a family, search the Internet for articles about Bremerton, Washington, assistant football coach Joe Kennedy. Coach Kennedy was hired in 2008, and until this year, he was noted for his “enthusiasm and positive attitude” and his “excellent job of mentoring players and building character in them.”^a From the beginning of his tenure at the school, he prayed on the field after the games. Students began to pray with him. And in 2015, the school ordered Coach Kennedy to cease all actions associated with public prayer on the field—kneeling, bowing his head, praying with students. When he continued to pray, the school suspended him and flagged his performance review as “Do not rehire.”

Read Daniel 3:1-30. King Nebuchadnezzar erected a golden image and required all inhabitants of Babylon to worship the image. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had an important decision to make: they could defy the king’s orders and continue to worship only God . . . or they could disobey God’s commands and bow before the king’s idol. The king’s orders were very clear. Anyone who refused to worship the image would be cast into the blazing furnace. Fully committed to obeying God’s commands to worship only Him, these three young men placed their lives in the hands of the King of kings. And when Babylon’s king threw them into the furnace, a fourth man, one “like a son of the gods” walked with them in the flames. Because of their obedience, God’s glory was revealed to all.

As a family, discuss: **What similarities do you see between the events in Daniel 3 and the events in Bremerton, Washington? In each situation, how did God’s followers respond to the restrictions placed on their worship of God?**

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. Which is easiest—to hide your worship of God when people ridicule or threaten you, or to openly worship God despite their opposition?
2. Why do you think people choose to worship God even at great cost?
3. Are any of us facing situations where we have been asked not to worship God publicly?
4. How might our unfaltering commitment to worshipping God in all circumstances cause others to want to know Him?

a = (source: <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2015/12/16/football-coach-suspended-for-midfield-prayer-files-discrimination-complaint.html>).