

## “Peace Under Pressure!”

*A Personal or Small Group Experience*

In Acts chapter 16 Paul and Silas find themselves being unjustly punished and under intense pressure to cave on their convictions. Their expressions of transcendent “peace” while under such intense pressure became the tool God used to bring people to faith in Him and set the spiritual foundation for a congregation in Philippi. The stories of real people experiencing a transcendent peace of God while under intense pressure are not new to the Scriptures. The bible is full of them. They are real stories about real people engaging with a Real but supernatural God. Real people (like you and me) connecting to a Real God!

In this study we are going back to about 500 BC. The people of God are in captivity in Babylon after losing a battle to defend Israel followed by the deportation of thousands to the homeland of their captors. Many of the Israelites became excellent servants in all areas of life in Babylon and as we will see rose in the ranks of responsibility and freedom in their new land. The tensions of “doing what it takes to survive” and “being faithful to God no matter what” must have been amazing. The pressure to cave in was real.

The story of the three men in the fiery furnace in Daniel 3 reveals the amazing way God can capture a heart and make it faithful to Him. It also shows how real faith that delivers “peace under pressure” is a powerful witness through which God can change the hearts of kings and countries.

**READ Daniel 3** three times. The first two just to get the story in your head and heart and then read it for a third time in sections stopping periodically to discuss as you go.

Discussion Starters:

What really grabs you heart and mind in this story?

Describe the pressure the three men must have felt? Have you ever been in such pressure to conform?

Discuss the carefully worded response of the three men in verses 16-18! Where is the power in these words.

How did God show up?

How did God use their faith and actions as a witness for Him? How great was the impact?

Relate all this to you life? The peace under pressure we can have and the witness God can make of it!

You may want to close with Philippians 4:4-7 and practice turning anxieties and pressures into prayers and then receiving peace.

# DEPLOYED!

## “Connecting With God” Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

**This Page** has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

**The Center Pages** contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from [www.pointofgracechurch.org](http://www.pointofgracechurch.org)

**The Back Page** has a study written specifically for a small group of people or an individual to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

## *Scripture & Meditation Guide this week!*

### Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention.  
Ask God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?”  
“How are You inviting me to respond?”
- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!  
*Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him*

*Enjoy these verses from the book of Philippians and your time with Him!*

**Monday:**      **Philippians 2:1-11**

**Tuesday:**    **Philippians 2:12-18**

**Wednesday:** **Philippians 3:1-11**

**Thursday:**   **Philippians 3:12-16**

**Friday:**      **Philippians 4:4-9**

**Saturday:**    **Philippians 4:10-13**