

DON'T SHINE ☀️  
SO OTHERS CAN SEE  
YOU. SHINE SO THAT  
THROUGH YOU,  
others can see Him.

☀️ C.S. LEWIS ☀️

## WEEK 3

### FAITH GLORIFIES GOD

Few are as bold as the men we read about this week. Standing firm in the face of affliction, their faith doesn't waiver or fail.

I remember growing up as a child and hearing the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den. My first thought was that this man was brave, his faith was strong, he glorified God... The thing is, my focus was off. My eyes were on Daniel, when they should have been focused on the power of God working through him.

In Philippians 2, Paul writes, "For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." (NIV) And so we see that these men were nothing without the grace of God working in them and through them.

This wasn't a secret to Daniel. He understood that every detail of his life—both the good and the bad—was written according to plan. He knew that the heart of the king was in the palm of God's hand. In fact, when Daniel set out to write this book, he began by writing, "In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand." (Daniel 1:1-2, NIV)

Boom—right there Daniel gives glory to God. He doesn't leave interpretation open to chance. Instead, he clarifies the fact that God is the one at the helm, steering this ship.

Keep reading through the book of Daniel and you'll see this point driven home again and again: God is the one in control. Whether there's one faithful man in the lion's den or three in the fire, God's the one changing lives. He's the one giving strength to the weak. He's the one deciding when and how a heart will be softened.

*"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." – Proverbs 21:1*

Turning to the story of Elijah, we see an unusual yet faithful man. The Bible tells us that he was fed by ravens who brought him bread and meat in the morning and again in the evening. He healed a widow's deceased son, and when his days were finally numbered, he was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind.

This man was bold, as we see in the story of the fire from heaven. He stood alone against 450 prophets of Baal, and in fact, the Bible tells us that he mocked them. Who does that? Most people don't have the courage to stand up to one man let alone mock 450 unbelievers, yet this man stood there boldly declaring his faith believing that God in turn would be faithful.

Like Daniel and his friends, Elijah did this for one simple reason--to glorify God. He knew that there wasn't anything he could do to change their hearts and minds, but he was well aware that God could.

"Answer me, LORD, answer me," he said, "so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." (1 Kings 18:37, NIV)

As you're reading this week, take time to focus on faith one day and God's provision the next. What do you learn about each? Use the resources provided at the beginning of this study guide to dig deep.













